

5 SLA men wounded

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Five pro-Israeli Lebanese were wounded Friday when two explosive charges blew up near a joint patrol of Israeli troops and their militia allies in South Lebanon, security sources said. They said the bombs exploded as men of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and Israeli soldiers were patrolling a road near Marjayoun inside Israel's self-declared "security zone."

In Beirut, the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) claimed responsibility. A Hizbollah spokesman said four Israeli helicopter gunships were evacuating the casualties and fires were blazing in the area. "The unit of martyr Ahmad Ali Chehab from the Islamic Resistance (a coalition of resistance groups) carried out a courageous operation against the Israeli enemy in the area of Marjayoun," the spokesman said. Resistance fighters frequently try to attack Israeli troops and SLA militiamen in the border strip. The security sources said two SLA militiamen were wounded.

Jordan Times

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Tunis welcomes tourism cooperation

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian Tourism and Traditional Industries Minister Mohammad Jagham has welcomed developing tourism cooperation between Tunisia and Jordan and lauded the urban development Jordan is witnessing in all fields. In a statement to Petra in Tunis on the occasion of the visit he will make to Jordan Monday, Jagham said his visit to Jordan would enable him to discuss with Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat and other officials means to implement a tourism cooperation agreement signed between the two countries and other scopes of cooperation. Jagham said that such cooperation could include exchange of expertise in the field of traditional industries, in addition to desert tourism with Jordan and Tunisia are interested in. Tourism in Jordan is one of the promising sectors, he said. Jordan can be more successful than Tunisia in promoting tourism because it is close to huge Arab markets. Calling for promoting tourism services, Jagham said that joint Arab action was necessary in this field. He also called on Arab countries interested in tourism to exchange expertise and to look for a new formula that defines the form of Arab cooperation in this field.

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EC delegate praises Jordan economic step

AMMAN (Petra) — The European Community (EC) delegate in Amman, Christian Falkowski, Friday praised the recent economic measures adopted by the Jordanian government and pledged the EC's continued support for the Kingdom.

In an interview with Petra, Falkowski described the new economic measures as "a step in the right direction towards building a national economy that can meet Jordan's aspirations in increased production through enhancing self-reliance and exploiting the available resources in the best possible manner."

Falkowski said the EC had granted Jordan \$240 million in the last 15 years under three protocols, the third of which ends in 1991.

The EC delegate added that the community was committed to grant Jordan \$120 million — \$42 million in the form of grants and \$78 million in the form of loans — in accordance with the third protocol which took effect in 1987. He pointed out the EC assistance to Jordan focuses on productive sectors such as agriculture, with 40 per cent of the assistance, industry (22 per cent), energy (20 per cent) and education and science (11 per cent each).

Falkowski expressed optimism

that the Jordanian economy would grow and overcome any problem that might face it, in view of the new approach adopted by the government.

Falkowski said that the EC had approved an international investment programme, under which it would provide financial and technical assistance to 39 developing countries including Jordan to help them develop their national economies.

Under the programme, he said, the EC will provide loans, credit facilities, and technical assistance to financial institutions, chambers of commerce, professional organisations, government agencies and companies wishing to set up joint ventures with companies or corporations from any of the EC states.

The programme aims at developing international and regional cooperation and transferring technology from developed countries to developing ones to help achieve balanced development.

In addition to Jordan, the programme includes nine countries from the Mediterranean region — Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Turkey, Yugoslavia, and Cyprus, 16 countries from Latin America and 11 states in Asia.

Sanaa implements ACC resolutions

SANAA (Petra) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has instructed the concerned authorities to embark on procedures for plans and programmes that would be carried out in implementation of resolutions taken upon the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which groups his country with Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

In a message circulated to all government departments, Saleh said plans and policies concerning the country's economy should be geared to conform with the decisions associated with the ACC and designed to speed up economic integration with the other

partners in the alliance. In Manama, Bahrain's emir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, voiced his country's support for the ACC and said the alliance was bound to boost the Arab Nation's economy.

Somali Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Hamed described the ACC as a step towards uniting the Arab World.

In Cairo, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Yusri Mustafa said the ACC would create better opportunities for Arab economic activities. The Egyptian People's Council is to discuss the ACC statute March 18.

Palestine embassy opened in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Friday opened a Palestine embassy in India. Arafat held talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the Middle East, Afghanistan and other conflicts in the Third World, the prime minister's office said.

He told reporters before leaving for Dhaka it was imperative to summon an international conference on the Middle East in accordance with United Nations resolutions, and called for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question.

Arafat also said he and Gandhi were trying to help bring peace to Afghanistan, United News of India (UNI) reported.

"We are doing our best to achieve a final settlement in the Afghanistan issue," the news agency quoted Arafat as saying as he inaugurated the embassy.

Arafat refused to give any details. He later met Afghanistan's ambassador to New Delhi, Abdul Samad Azhar, UNI said.

On Thursday, Arafat met in Pakistan with leaders of the Afghan guerrillas who have been fighting the Kabul government for the past decade.

The PLO leader told the guerrillas to be more politically realistic, according to a source close to him who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Arafat flew to Dhaka from New Delhi aboard a special executive jet. He was greeted by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

Arafat is on his first official visit to Bangladesh since the proclamation last November of an independent Palestinian state. Bangladesh was one of the first countries to recognise the State of Palestine.

Vincennes skipper's wife escapes bombing

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The wife of the captain of the USS Vincennes narrowly escaped injury Friday when a bomb destroyed the van she was driving, police said.

The San Diego-based Vincennes was the navy ship that shot down a civilian Iranian airliner last July while on duty in the Gulf. U.S. officials said the captain and his crew had mistaken the airliner for an Iranian fighter plane in an attack approach.

Sharon Rogers, wife of Captain Will Rogers, was stopped at a red light at an intersection at the time of the explosion, said police spokesman Bill Robinson.

A construction worker nearby helped Rogers escape before the van was engulfed in flames, said police spokesman Dave Cohen.

"The vehicle burned and is a total loss," Robinson said. The explosion occurred at 7:45 a.m. (1545 GMT).

Rogers was taken to the nearby University City substation, where

she was joined by her husband. "Initial investigation indicates the explosion either occurred in the engine compartment or the undercarriage of the van," Robinson said. "Evidence at the scene also indicates that there are pieces of a pipe bomb."

Rogers was uninjured, Robinson said.

The immediate area around the intersection was sealed off by police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Naval Investigative Service officials were called in to assist in the investigation.

Federal investigators also were dispatched to the Rogers' home. Robinson said they would be checking to make sure no explosive devices were left at their home.

The USS Vincennes returned from its six-month Gulf deployment last October. It remains in port, and Rogers remains its skipper.



His Majesty King Hussein is seen off upon his departure for the Hague Friday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein and senior officials (Petra photo)

Bishop says intifada cemented coexistence

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The one-year-and-four-month-old intifada in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has cemented Muslim-Christian coexistence in the occupied territories, according to the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Naim Nasser.

In fact there was never a "real problem with Muslim-Christian coexistence" in the West Bank and Gaza, said Bishop Nasser. "Under the present circumstances any religious discrimination which may have existed between the two faiths has dissolved entirely," he said.

Refuting some reports that indicate that Israelis treat Palestinian Christians "better" than their Muslim counterparts, Nasser said: "When an Israeli soldier stops a bus he does not ask who is a Muslim and who is a Christian; he treats us all the same."

The unity and solidarity among Palestinians have also been reflected in some extremist factions which used to call for the establishment of an Islamic state, he said. "They have now changed their tone and are calling for a Christian and Muslim state on the land of Palestine," he pointed out.

However, the majority of the Palestinians in the occupied territories are demanding an end to the Israeli occupation rule and the establishment of an independent state, Nasser said.

The Christian community makes up four to six per cent of the occupied territories' inhabitants.

Iran suggests burning of all 'Satanic Verses'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said Friday the only way to restore calm after the uproar over British author Salman Rushdie was to burn all copies of his book "The Satanic Verses."

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said otherwise it would be a source of perpetual tension between Muslims and supporters of the novel.

"The only solution that exists... is to issue a strict order to seize all copies in the entire world and burn them," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Rafsanjani as telling worshippers at Tehran's Friday prayer meeting.

Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last month ordered Muslims to kill Rushdie and his publishers for insulting Islam in the novel, sparking a crisis in relations with the West.

IRNA did not make clear if Rafsanjani said destruction of the book would make Iran retract the death order.

It quoted Rafsanjani as saying "if it stays, it will remain forever a source of rebellion and it would be impossible that peace would come between real Muslims and the supporters of this book."

Rushdie, a naturalised British citizen born to a Muslim family in India, went into hiding after Khomeini issued the death threat against him.

Iranian religious leaders offered a bounty for his death of \$5.2 million.

Iran broke diplomatic relations with Britain March 7 over its refusal to suppress the novel, which many Muslims consider insulting to their faith.

Both British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign

Minister Geoffrey Howe said they understood that the book offended Muslims, but insisted that Khomeini's execution order should be revoked and freedom of expression respected.

The dispute opened a new rift between Iran and the West, with Britain's 11 European Community (EC) partners, along with Sweden, Norway and Canada, recalling their ambassadors to protest the death decree.

Britain has targeted nine former Iranian embassy employees for deportation if they refuse to leave the country of their own accord in the next 10 days.

The Spanish news agency EFE said Thursday that seven Iranians who may have been on a mission to kill Rushdie passed through Spain 10 days ago and two of them were later detained in Britain.

The men were not arrested in Spain for lack of evidence and left for Britain, France and West Germany, the state-run agency said, quoting sources close to the investigation.

The Bonn government said Friday it had no evidence that members of the reported hit squad were in West Germany.

An Interior Ministry spokesman also noted that reports of the alleged hit squad had been officially denied by Spanish authorities.

The West German mass-circulation Bild Daily carried a front page report Friday saying Spanish security services had alerted Bonn that two of the Iranians were now in West Germany.

EFE said the seven Iranians were spotted in Spain about the time when Iranian leaders were saying an "arrow" had been launched against Rushdie.

Mubarak rejects chemical plant report

BRUSSELS (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt Friday denied his country was assembling Swiss-made parts that could be used to create a chemical weapons plant at Abu Zaabal, north of Cairo.

"This is the first I've heard of it," Mubarak told reporters. "We are against chemical weapons and, of course, don't make any such factories."

"We don't back the idea of such factories or even nuclear ones."

The New York Times said Friday U.S. officials believe Egypt was assembling Swiss-made parts that could be used to build a chemical arms plant.

Mubarak spoke after meeting with senior European Community (EC) officials, including EC Commission President Jacques Delors, as part of a European tour to win support for an international Middle East peace conference.

He said Israel "should not fear an international conference (which) cannot impose a (peace) settlement on anyone."

He said the conference "would only be a guarantee... for direct talks between the main actors in the Israeli-Arab conflict."

Mubarak said he did not ask Delors to urge the 12 EC states to recognise Palestine.

"The question of recognition is a detail."

"What counts is that an international peace conference should get off the ground."

"We shouldn't waste time on things which won't lead anywhere... if you say the conference shouldn't be held yet, you'll have bloodshed," he said.

King in the Hague to attend meeting on environment

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Friday to attend an international conference on the environment in the Hague.

The Hague conference will discuss protection of the ozone layer around the globe.

While in the Hague, the King is also expected to discuss Middle East peace efforts with French President Francois Mitterrand, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and other world leaders, according to reports here.

The King was seen off from Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, senior government officials and high-ranking army officers as well as the British and French ambassadors and the Dutch charge d'affaires in Amman.

The King is accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

The King was received upon arrival here by Queen Beatrix and senior Dutch officials.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and the Jordanian ambassador to the Netherlands joined the delegation here.

Premiers, presidents and ministerial-level officials from 23 states began arriving here Friday for Saturday's environment conference, the Dutch government said.

Among Friday's other early arrivals were presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Felix Houphouet Boigny of Ivory Coast and Brian Mulroney, prime minister of Canada, according to the Dutch government information service.

Prime Minister Gareth Evans of Australia arrived Thursday. Also arriving early Friday were

premiers Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway and Michel Rocard of France, who are hosting the gathering along with their Dutch colleague, Ruud Lubbers.

The 23-nation gathering is aimed at proposing a United Nations body that would have authority to set and enforce rules to protect the atmosphere's delicate ozone layer, according to the government.

The proposal, which would include an undetermined arbitrating role for the Hague-based World Court, would need to be approved by the U.N.'s General Assembly before coming into force.

At the conference, France is also being represented by Mitterrand, who was to arrive later Friday.

Other arrivals included President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya as well as four more premiers, Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, Ingmar Carlsson of Sweden, Fenech Adami of Malta and Hedi Bac-couche of Tunisia.

Mubarak and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany are scheduled to arrive Saturday.

Israeli troops demolish three Khan Yunis homes

1 shot dead in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops in the occupied Gaza Strip destroyed the rooms of three Palestinians during the night, bringing the number of such demolitions to seven in the past three days.

Residents of the Gaza Strip staged what appeared to be an unofficial general strike Friday although a communiqué from the leaders of the 16-month-old Palestinian uprising had called for the stoppage March 8 and 9 only.

Most Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank returned to work after the two-day strike. They said calls for a stoppage Friday were planted by Israeli agents trying to sow confusion and discord among Palestinian groups.

The army said it demolished three rooms in the town of Khan Yunis occupied by Palestinians suspected of petrol bomb attacks on alleged Arab collaborators with the Israeli occupation authorities.

On Wednesday troops bulldozed the houses of two alleged petrol bombers in the Gaza Strip town of Rafah. On Tuesday, in the West Bank city of Nablus, they blew up the family homes of two men suspected of killing an Israeli soldier.

The army was reported withdrawing troops Friday from crowded areas of two of the

largest refugee camps in the Gaza Strip in a redeployment plan that will put more paramilitary police and mobile units in the volatile camps.

Troops began moving out of some posts in the Jabalya camp — with 52,000 residents, the largest camp in the seaside strip — and stepped up redeployment of troops that began Thursday in the Shati camp on the sea in Gaza City, Palestinian witnesses told the AP.

Soldiers were leaving rooftop observation posts in Shati, home to 42,000 Palestinian refugees, and fewer patrols were seen in Gaza City, the witnesses said.

Israel Radio also reported the redeployment, saying soldiers would move from the centre of

the camps to be replaced by mobile units.

The total number of soldiers in Gaza will not be cut back, but many combat soldiers will be replaced by paramilitary border police, an army spokesman said.

The military change came as Foreign Minister Moshe Arens left for the United States on a 10-day visit where he is scheduled to meet with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

Arens is expected to seek U.S. support for efforts that focus on a temporary solution for the occupied territories, while U.S. officials are expected to urge Israel to reduce the violence used in suppressing the uprising.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Thursday criticised as dangerous and biased proposals by Israel's leading strategic "think tank" to end the Arab-Israeli conflict by negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

A six-month study by the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies tentatively endorsed the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after a 10-to-15 year period of limited self-rule.

It also called for Israel to halt Jewish settlement in the occupied territories and talk to the PLO.

Uprising, Arab, Islamic issues to figure high in OIC agenda in Riyadh

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 16-month-old Palestinian uprising, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the peace talks between Iran and Iraq, the situation in Afghanistan following the Soviet withdrawal from the country, the West's perception of Islam and issues related to Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries are some of the topics expected to figure high on the agenda in a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers which opens Monday in Riyadh.

Jordan, current rotating chairman of the foreign ministers' conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), will start the process of handing over the position to Saudi Arabia when senior officials from OIC member states begin two days of preparatory meetings for the three-day foreign ministers conference.

The full ministerial conference will discuss the latest developments in issues of concern to Islamic countries in the political, economic, financial and cultural fields.

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who heads Jordan's delegation to the conference, will deliver the Kingdom's speech during the opening session and officially hand over the chairmanship to his Saudi counterpart Monday.

The preparatory meeting will finalise an agenda for the ministerial conference and present a report to the ministers Monday.

A senior Jordanian Foreign Ministry official said: "Jordan's position vis-a-vis the intifada and relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation is clear. The Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank was one of the main factors that led to a change in some countries' positions regarding the Palestinian people and their identity."

One of the last-minute additions to the agenda is expected to be the ongoing Iranian-European row over British author Salman Rushdie's controversial book, "The Satanic Verses."

The senior Jordanian official, who is attending the conference, said one of the OIC member states, which he did not name, had asked that the issue of the West's perception of Islam be dealt with during the conference. However, the official, who preferred anonymity, said Rushdie's book was not mentioned by name.

Iran has indicated that it would be attending the Riyadh conference in what is seen as an apparent attempt to consolidate its position with OIC backing in the dispute which led to Tehran's break in diplomatic relations with London. Iran surprised OIC member states when it attended the March 1988 Amman conference of OIC foreign ministers following its boycott of the 1987 summit in Kuwait. But the Iranian delegate walked out of the Amman meeting in a dispute over wordings in the conference's final statement.

Jordan took over chairmanship of the OIC foreign ministers' conference at the Amman meeting, which was dubbed "Solidarity with the Palestinian Intifada." As chairman of the last round, Jordan now acts as a rapporteur for all four committees.

Items before the economic committee include inter-Islamic cooperation in matters such as food security, communications, transport, and industries.

The committee is also expected to specifically tackle the issue of aid to less-developed countries affected by drought.

The conference will also look into reports on OIC centres and institutions, in addition to reports of a recent conference of OIC information ministers.

The OIC structure and functions and the Jeddah-based organisation's budget as well as coordination among its various institutions, centres and academies will be tackled by the financial and administrative committee.



Life has returned to almost normal in the Afghan capital of Kabul after the withdrawal of Soviet forces. Photo shows crippled victims of the 10-year war.

Kabul Mujahedeen push on Jalalabad thwarted

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan troops reported driving back guerrillas laying siege to the city of Jalalabad Thursday and the government said hundreds of rebels were killed in the fighting.

Rebel sources in Pakistan insisted that fighting for Jalalabad airport was still going on and the guerrillas were hammering defenders with 107-mm and 122-mm rockets.

But a rebel analyst suggested Mujahedeen forces had made a tactical blunder by rushing forward without organising themselves in their eagerness to capture their first major city. The rebels scored a diplomatic coup Thursday when Saudi Arabia — one of their staunchest supporters — became the first state to recognise the Mujahedeen provisional Afghan government formed in Pakistan last month.

Rebel sources have said the provisional government planned to hold its first cabinet meeting in the Jalalabad area in the next few days.

But Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani announced in Kabul that the eastern city, its airport, a nearby military base and the main road to the Afghan capital were still in government hands.

"Today the armed forces were able to repulse strongly the opposition forces and make them retreat," he said. "Hundreds of them were killed and a number captured."

UNICEF, aid officials to meet Sudan rebels

ADDIS ABABA (R) — United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Director James Grant and a senior U.S. aid official arrived in Addis Ababa Friday to discuss ways of boosting emergency relief operations in famine-stricken southern Sudan.

Grant and Julia Taft, an official of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), was to meet Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh as well as Sudanese rebel representatives before returning to Khartoum Saturday, UNICEF officials said.

Grant and Taft have just attended a donor's conference in Khartoum which urged the Sudanese government and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels to declare a ceasefire so that emergency food supplies can be moved into the war-torn south before the rainy season begins in May.

Grant told the Khartoum conference that an estimated 2.2 million people in southern Sudan were in need of help, and other U.N. officials said about 100,000 people in the region could starve to death.



James Grant

The SPLA, which had scored a string of military successes in southern Sudan this year, has not responded directly to the call for a ceasefire.

But the group said in Addis Ababa Thursday that relief agencies were welcome to truck food supplies into rebel-held areas from neighbouring countries.

"Relief can now be transported by land from Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia through SPLA lines and the whole population east of the Nile can be reached overland," it said.

The SPLA said food could be transported overland through rebel-held territory to within 10 kilometres of the besieged southern city of Juba, where about 250,000 people are relying entirely on a food airlift to survive.

Diplomats in East Africa said the SPLA would probably resist calls for a ceasefire, fearing that this would give besieged army garrisons in the south an opportunity to restock with fresh supplies.

The rebels have been fighting a bush war since 1983 to end what they see as the unfair domination in southern Sudan by the north.

Iraqis speed up Basra reconstruction

By Salah Nasrawi

The Associated Press

BASRA — Some 100,000 workers with heavy equipment have been moved to Iraq's war-battered southern port of Basra to speed up reconstruction after President Saddam Hussein complained it was progressing too slowly, officials report.

"We will sweat as much blood as we spilled defending Basra to make it the pearl of the Gulf," Governor Anwar Sa'eed Al Hadithi told the Associated Press in an interview Thursday.

The work teams were transferred from other parts of Iraq, along with some 40,000 trucks, mechanical diggers and other pieces of heavy machinery after Hussein visited the city last month and declared he wanted reconstruction completed within three months.

Basra, founded 1,400 years ago and once known as the "Venice of the East" because of its network of canals, is seen as a symbol of the Iraqi defence against repeated Iranian offensives during the eight-year-old Gulf war.

The Iraqis fought to within 10 kilometres of Basra before they were driven back last spring.

Fighting halted Aug. 20 when a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire took effect.

Hadithi said in an interview that the Baghdad government had "opened its purse" to make funds available for the accelerated rebuilding on top of the original \$5 billion allocation for reconstruction.

"The new Basra will be an industrial, trade and tourist centre and will attract more people to work here," he said.

The government will build a new electricity grid along with drinking water and sewage systems in the city, where most of the infrastructure was destroyed or damaged by ferocious Iranian artillery and rocket bombardments.

The governor said that more than 3,000 damaged houses will be bulldozed and their owners given generous grants of up to

10,000 dinars (around \$32,000 at official exchange rates) and plots of land to build new homes.

Before the war, Basra was Iraq's second largest city with a population of around 1.5 million. An estimated half the population fled during the fighting, but Hadithi said most have returned since the ceasefire.

He said some of the war-battered public buildings would be left standing as monuments while statues of army commanders killed defending the city will be erected.

"The buildings will stand witness to the savage Iranian shelling of the city," Hadithi noted. "The arms of the statues will point eastward to warn future generations of Iranian ambitions in our country."

The government plans to make Basra's \$500 million international airport, reopened the day the ceasefire took effect, a major aviation transit point between Europe and the Far East and the Gulf, officials reported.

An Iraqi Airways Boeing 747 flying from Tokyo and Bangkok landed there Wednesday to inaugurate the campaign.

Iraq's Civil Aviation Authority is offering cut-price fuel, catering discounts and waived landing fees as incentives to other airlines to

use the airport.

Civil aviation chief Majid Khalil Hussein told the AP that Basra's four-kilometre runway, advanced traffic control and other facilities make it one of the best airports in the region.

Amid the frenzied reconstruction activity, the Iraqi ports authority last week began operations to clear a stretch of the muddy Shatt Al Arab waterway that meanders through Basra southward to the Gulf.

Iraqi demands that the 190-kilometre waterway be cleared of wrecked ships, unexploded bombs and eight years of silt have been rejected by Iran, which also claims navigational rights.

The dispute is one of the factors that has stalled peace talks. The Iraqi clearing operations are being carried out in the waterway north of the point where it forms the southern boundary with Iran. The Shatt is Iraq's main outlet to the Gulf.

Officials said at least 10 sunken vessels have been raised in the 14.5-kilometre Iraqi-controlled stretch running south from Basra's port of Maqal.

They estimated that some one million cubic metres of silt have accumulated since the war began. This has to be cleared before shipping operations can resume.

Dredgers were seen inching down the pre-war channels scooping up tonnes of mud that was dumped into barges.

There were some 75 ships sunk or trapped in the waterway, the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, when the war broke out. Some of the trapped ships have been freed since the ceasefire.

Reuters adds: Several American tourists stopping at Basra on their way to Frankfurt joined Wednesday's celebrations with local Basrawi singers and dancers, beating tambourines and playing oboes before surprised guests.

Iraqi Airways flew reporters and 100 airline agents and friends to Basra for the airport's international inauguration.

It opened to domestic Iraqi flights hours after the ceasefire took effect on the frontlines just east of Basra port last Aug. 20.

The general director of Iraqi civil aviation said a Swiss airliner Monday became the first foreign plane to use Iraqi airspace since the ceasefire stopped the shooting.

The heads of the national carriers of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Kuwait planned to meet in Cairo March 26 to discuss establishing an Arab airlines union, officials said.

Expert testimony blocked in hijack trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — The judge in the Fawaz Younis sky piracy trial Thursday blocked testimony from a government legal expert who sought to rebut the defendant's claim he was just following orders in hijacking a plane from Beirut in 1985.

With the jury out of the room, W. Hays Parks, chief of the international affairs division of the U.S. army's advocate general, argued that Younis' defence did not meet the standards of international or military law.

Seeking to appear for the government as an expert witness, Parks said that Lebanon's Amal militia, to which Younis belonged, was not a legitimate military organisation because its combatants did not wear uniforms and they attacked civilians.

Parks, who listened to Younis' testimony earlier this week, said that the defendant ought to have known that hijacking a plane with civilians aboard was a violation of international law.

"If a soldier receives an illegal order, he has not only a right but a duty to disobey that order," said Parks, who is a colonel in the Marine Corps reserves.

After listening to Parks, Judge Aubrey E. Robinson said: "I respect the expertise of Colonel Parks, but he will not testify before the jury."

Robinson said that he, not Parks, would instruct the jury on the law in the case, and anticipated an appeal from government lawyers if Younis is acquitted on the defence of following a superior's order.



Francois Mitterrand

Mitterrand ends 24-hour visit to Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand ended a 24-hour visit to Algeria Friday saying he was pleased with his talks and confident President Chadli Benjedid's democratic reforms would succeed.

Mitterrand, the first Western head of state to visit Algeria since traumatic riots last October, told reporters at Algiers airport the visit gave him the impression the reforms were going well and that Benjedid had the popular support to carry them out.

"I have the feeling that Algeria is entering a new era, anxious to let every intellectual, religious, political and ethnic group express itself," he added.

Since the riots, Benjedid has reduced the role of the ruling National Liberation Front and allowed new political parties to form under a new constitution approved by referendum last month.

Mitterrand arrived Thursday morning and has had 10 hours of meetings in three sessions, with Benjedid. "There is no interesting problem that has not come up," he said.

The two leaders had made serious progress on economic and financial relations and had discussed ties between the European Community and the newly-created Arab Maghreb Union, which links Algeria with Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania, he said.

Mitterrand said he planned to come back to North Africa in the second half of 1989.

Libya makes major ministerial changes

NICOSIA (R) — The Libyan People's Congress made major ministerial changes Thursday, creating an oil ministry, appointing a former Egyptian minister to the industry portfolio and naming a woman as education minister.

New ministries of heavy industry, justice, higher education and scientific research were also introduced, the Qatari News Agency quoted Libyan state radio as saying.

The agency, received in Nicosia, reported in a dispatch from Tripoli that the 15th General People's Congress appointed Fawzi Shakhshuki, previously civil services secretary (minister), to head the new heavy industry ministry.

Shakhshuki has represented Libya for at least the past three years at meetings of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The agency said an Egyptian, Amin Helmi Osman, was named industry secretary. Osman served as industry minister in Egypt under the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

The new education minister is Fatma Abdul Hafez Shukhtar while Ahmad Fathi Ibn Makhar, previously industry minister, will head the new heavy industry ministry.

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

15:40 Programme review

15:45 Children programme

17:00 Educational programme

17:30 The Friends

18:00 News summary

18:05 Message from Iraq

18:15 A play by Shakspeare

19:00 Local programme

19:40 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Programme on hot springs in Jordan

21:00 Arabic series

21:45 Local programme

22:00 Arab play

23:00 News in Arabic

23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Couteau: A la Redecouverte du Monde

19:00 News in French

19:15 La Vie En Panne

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Natural Phenomena

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Just the Ten of us

21:00 Alfred Hitchcock

21:30 Saturday Variety Show

22:00 News in English

22:20 Feature film: "The Killers"

PRAYER TIMES

06:31 Fajr (Sunrise) Duha

11:46 Dhuhur

15:07 Asr

17:43 Maghreb

19:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfeth. Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church. Tel. 63705

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De La Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622966

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625385

626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 827085

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and a slight rise in temperature will occur. Wind will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, wind will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 4/16

Aqaba 12/24

Deserts 3/18

Jordan Valley 10/23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 49 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Sami Khouri 681373

Dr. Khalid M'addi 743000

Dr. Mohammad Al Abbadi 778959

Dr. Ahmad Al Darg 676024

Fire pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637855

Nairouth pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 640445

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IBRD: Dr. Ali in Baybeh (—)

Al Sharan pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA: Dr. Abdul Karm Al Khasshash (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 62290993

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843022

Traffic Police 63639091

Public Security Department 656000/685111

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

TELEPHONE INFORMATION

(directory assistance) 12

Overseas Calls 300/300

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Telephone 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 88-5230

Queen Alia Int. Airport 88-5230

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6

Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714

Shmeisani Hospital 660151

University Hospital 845845

Al-Mushar Hospital 667279

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77

Italian, Al-Mohajreen 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071

Bin Sina Hospital (09)86732

IBRD: Princess Borna Hospital (02)275555

Green Catholic Hospital (02)272775

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247109

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg

Apple 300/400

Banana 350/300

Banana (Mukammur) 300/250

Broad beans 200/160

Cabbage 140/100

Carrots 220/150

Cauliflower 400/120

Cucumber 400/340

Eggplant 200/140

Garlic 270/200

Grapefruit 360/320

Lemon 400/320

Lettuce (per unit) 140/100

Marrow (large) 250/200

Marrow (small) 420/360

Orange (Shamouti) 400/340

Orange (local) 340/300

Onion (dry) 250/200

Onion (green) 160/120

Pepper (hot) 680/600

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

02:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)

09:35 Cairo (MS)

12:15 Baghdad (IA)

12:55 Benghazi (LN)

13:40 Kuwait (KU)

17:45 Rome (AZ)

21:05 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

05:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)

09:00 New Delhi (RJ)

09:10 Aqaba (RJ)

09:18 Damascus (RJ)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)

09:50 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

09:55 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)

10:00 New York, Montreal (RJ)

16:20 Miami, Vienna (RJ)

17:20 Athens (RJ)

17:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

19:40 Tripoli (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:05 Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)

08:15 Beirut (ME)

10:20 Cairo (MS)

13:30 Baghdad (IA)

13:55 Benghazi (LN)

15:00 Kuwait (KU)

18:35 Damascus (AZ)

Most school children suffer from teeth decay

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry revealed Thursday that a majority of school children in Jordan have teeth decay problems and re-emphasised the need to maintain a school health programme to remedy the situation.

Nearly 60 per cent of a total of 70,000 children in the primary, preparatory and secondary school stages were examined during the 1988-1989 school year and almost 70 per cent were found to be suffering from teeth problems, the head of the ministry's Dentistry Department, Ahmad Rashdan, announced at a general meeting here Thursday as part of the Kingdom's observance of the Arab and Jordanian Dental Day.

Rashdan said that the health ministry's primary health care centres are now responsible for implementing the dental health programme at schools along with their other health care responsibilities.

The meeting, held at the Nuzha Vocational School, was addressed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thounan Hindawi, who said that the ministry was

pursuing efforts to ensure a healthy environment at schools and continued medical attention to the children, in implementation of resolutions taken by the first national educational conference held in 1987.

"The ministry strives to ensure continued health to the children not only through the textbooks and curricula but in practice through the help of teachers, school administrators and the health authorities."

The meeting was addressed by Dr. Ishag Al Khairi from the Jordan Dentists Association (JDA), which organised the meeting and the Dental Day activities, in cooperation with the ministries of Health and Education.

Khairi said that Jordan's observance of Dental Day will last a whole week during which JDA teams will give lectures and organise seminars through radio and television and at schools, to spread awareness on the need to give proper care to teeth.

The JDA, he said, is now involved in preparing for a general conference by Jordanian dentists, which will open



Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thounan Hindawi Thursday attends a meeting on the occasion of Arab and Jordanian Dental Day (Petra photo)

here on March 22, to discuss issues pertaining to dentures and teeth treatment and protection.

Dr. Lami'a Maraga, who is employed at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) health centres, addressed the meeting later outlining the various services provided to the refugees and the programmes carried out in cooperation with the World Health Organisation

(WHO).

At the meeting, Hindawi distributed token gifts to winners of a competition organised by the ministry in cooperation with the JDA to produce drawings and posters and articles orienting the public on the need to maintain healthy teeth.

The JDA's president presented its shields to Hindawi, UNRWA and the Health Ministry.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

HIGHER COURT OF JUSTICE LAW ENDORSED: A Royal Decree was issued Thursday endorsing the Higher Court of Justice law, amendments to laws concerning district and regular courts and an amendment to the law ensuring independence of the judiciary. Following the announcement Justice Minister Riad Al Shakaa said that the Higher Court of Justice, which will be based in Amman, will be a specialised court dealing with complaints about elections of municipal councils and chambers of industry and trade and various associations. (Petra)

JORDAN JOINS MANILA-BASED BANK: The Council of Ministers Thursday approved Jordan's joining the Manila-based Asian Development Bank. This bank finances several development projects in a number of Asian countries. (Petra)

TALHOUNI LEAVES FOR IPU CONFERENCE: Upper House of Parliament First Deputy Speaker Bahjat Talhouni Friday left Amman leading the Jordanian parliamentary delegation to the six-day 81st International Parliamentary Union Conference which will open in Budapest Monday. The delegation includes Upper House of Parliament Member Hazem Nuseibah, Parliament Secretary General Hani Kheir and a Parliament Secretariat staff member Fayez Al Shawaikeh. (Petra)

ABU TALEB MEETS IRAQI TEAM: Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb met at his office Thursday with Maj.-Gen. Khaled Nader, head of a visiting Iraqi military delegation. During the meeting the two sides reviewed the general situation in the Middle East region and aspects of military cooperation between Iraq and Jordan, as well as other issues of mutual concern. (Petra)

HAI HASSAN ATTENDS TRANSPORT TALKS: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan led the Jordanian delegation to the two-day sessions of the executive bureau of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers, which concluded its meetings Thursday at the Arab League general secretariat in Tunis. The recommendations reached will be submitted to the Council of Arab Transport Ministers due to convene in Baghdad in October 1989. (Petra)

EXHIBITION AT YARMOUK: Yarmouk University President Dr. Mohammad Hamdan will open an exhibition entitled "The Tuebigen Atlas of the Middle East" Saturday at the university. (Petra)

MESSAGE FROM TANTA UNIVERSITY: Yarmouk University President Dr. Mohammad Hamdan has received a message from Tanta University President Dr. Ra'fat Issa praising the student delegation who visited Tanta University recently. He also hoped that cooperation would be reinforced between the two universities in various fields. (Petra)

HASHISH PEDDLER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Abdo Mahmoud Tazouz to fifteen years imprisonment with hard labour and the payment of JD 5,000 fine for acquisition of hashish. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

COURSES ON ADMINISTRATION: All administrators at the voluntary societies in the Kingdom will attend a number of training courses Saturday at the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Amman. These courses are designed to explore new scientific subjects in the strategy of administration. Similar courses will be held in the northern and the southern regions of the Kingdom this year. (Petra)



PSD marks Al Israa Wal Mi'raj

A RELIGIOUS ceremony was held Thursday by the Public Security Department (PSD) to celebrate Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast which fell last Sunday. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Dr. Ahmad Ellayel and other noted scholars addressed the ceremony which was attended by PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali and PSD officers (Petra photo)

IPA takes part in Cairo pan-Arab conference

CAIRO (Petra) — The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) took part in a general conference on public administration which ended in Cairo Thursday and was attended by delegates from several Arab countries.

IPA Director Abdullah Ulayyan delivered Jordan's address to the meeting, outlining the Kingdom's experiment in public administration.

He said that the conference adopted a number of measures designed to enhance the concept of public administration role in running the affairs of the country and in providing training to new employees.

Ulayyan later met with Dr. Amr Ghanayem, president of the Cairo-based Egyptian Academy for Public Administration, and discussed cooperation between the academy and the IPA.

Crown Prince chairs Higher Planning Committee meeting

Jordan to discuss rescheduling debts with IMF, World Bank

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan is holding contacts with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank towards the end of March to seek a rescheduling of the Kingdom's debts, according to a decision taken here Thursday by the Higher Planning Committee which met under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The committee entrusted Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh to follow up the matter with representatives of the IMF and the World Bank due here this month and to take appropriate measures in the light of the meetings, according to an official announcement that followed the meeting.

The committee announced its decision to pursue the implementation of the government's financial and monetary policies and to make arrangements to honour the Kingdom's financial commitments to various international organisations.

According to the statement, the committee examined a number of development projects which could be delayed in conformity with the government's



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday chairs a meeting of the Higher Planning Committee at the Prime Ministry (Petra photo)

policy of controlling spending and the decision was taken to re-study these projects in cooperation with the concerned authorities.

The committee decided to set up a development council for the southern regions of the Kingdom, which includes Karak, Tafleeh and Ma'an governorates, to be headed by the Karak governor and to include five representatives of these areas.

It also decided to create a technical committee under the chairmanship of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) president to work out integrated development schemes for the southern regions of the country.

It also decided to set up a

special bureau that will be entrusted with activities related to the development of the Jordanian badia region.

The committee — which is chaired by the prime minister and groups several Cabinet members, the Central Bank governor and the Ministry of Planning's secretary general, heard a brief speech by the Crown Prince at the outset of the session.

He emphasised the need to maintain and corroborate Jordan's credibility in matters related to economic development and also in honouring commitments to various international organisations.

Prince Hassan noted that Jordan's recent economic, monetary and financial measures have been supported by these organisations.

The meeting, which was held at the Prime Ministry, heard a general outline of Jordan's debts and financial commitments by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan.

Last month, Prince Hassan chaired the first committee meeting which heard Kanaan's report on the government's programmes in economic, monetary and financial fields and difficulties being encountered in the implementation of a number of measures related to them.

Riham Ghassib portrays Jordan in spring

By Nelly Lama

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the advent of spring, one feels an urge to drive out of the city and look at the green pastures. Once out of town, one is faced with the lovely rural life still in existence, in its most charming form, in Jordan.

Riham Ghassib, a Jordanian artist who is not new to the art scene in this country, offers us a whole exhibition of such charm: A profusion of Jordanian pastoral and genre scenes and typical Jordanian landscapes that convey a familiar, if not friendly, atmosphere. Mirrored in her gouache paintings is the intimacy of domestic life, of everyday existence, incorporating old dishes and old habits; serene faces of villagers, workmen proceeding with their humble trades, all evoking a sense of romantic nostalgia.

Riham has a style of her own, call it naive (reminiscent of the Douanier Rousseau), call it caricatural; it is in every way singular.

ART REVIEW

A glimpse at Riham's past makes this singularity more comprehensible.

On finishing her studies in the United States, Riham returned home full of enthusiasm to paint. To start with, her colours were vivid and her style was pronouncedly abstract. She gradually acquired a taste for realism and her paintings of that period pondered on two main subjects: The beauty of nature (it included landscapes, portraits and still lifes) and the futility of social mendacity (sarcastic commentaries on the vanities of society).

It is then normal to assume that Riham's paintings issue from a burning vision rather than a will to please the public. She is eager to portray the beautiful people she encountered in her childhood, to recapture landscapes as she remembers them.

A photographic record is not her aim, she blends everything into her own vision, not letting a single relevant detail escape her. Colour, therefore, serves to enhance the mood, whether romantic, dramatic or subtle and atmospheric; a good reason why some houses might acquire pink tints or yellow overtones.

Repetitious rhythms serve to make her work more petulant. The placement of objects within space is only relevant to making the whole recognisable or more amiable.

Texture plays a very important part in her paintings: Some trees start with a smooth dark area at the bottom and as you go up, the texture mounts and the greens ascend on the value scale letting their tips catch the light in an almost magical way. Another example of a good rendering of texture is the velvety moiré dress of her "Woman from Mafraq."

As for anatomy, Riham concentrates mostly on the faces, all else is secondary. She either gives them caricatural features or renders them in a classical way (Woman Cleaning Fete has a Raphaelesque face portraying the warmth of youth, the use of warm

colours adds to that effect). On the other hand the effect that is produced by her caricatural style conveys a sense of familiarity. The model chosen is the person you can encounter everyday in the street (a choice first made by the Renaissance master Andrea Mantegna who saw the value of "regular" people as part of the treasures of the state...).

Seeing the works of Douanier Rousseau, Riham was dazzled to find that someone could paint in a style so close to hers. Indeed, her work conveys the same freshness and naive of rendering. The penetrating features of the Man Eating Rashoof tell a tale of the serene warmth of older days when rashoof, a dish of lentils and yoghurt, was very popular especially in Fuhes.

In some paintings, arms seem to be dangling from the trunk; this "irregularity" emphasises the fact that arms are of intrinsic importance to a craftsman (see the Bakery).

Often, the body is only a vehicle that serves to exhibit the beauty of our local dresses, unfortunately golden decorations could at times be superfluous. It is important to note her way of perceiving light and rendering light effects, whether nocturnal or diurnal.

The Watermelon Vendor, for example, is seen in his tent at night. An oil lamp sheds its rays on the stack of watermelons that only partially capture the light. One should not let the halo around the oil-lamps go unnoticed.

Night Scene is a study of tenebrosis. She highlights the moonlit clouds, the treetops,



Man Eating Rashoof: One of the paintings by the artist Riham Ghassib on display at the Royal Cultural Centre

bushes and the textured architecture with oranges and whites. They look as if they were struck by the moonlight; radiant within the darkest night. And just in case this might feel morbid, Riham adds her touch of familiarity, a dog barking at passing car.

In her landscapes, Riham portrays the many faces of Jordan. In "Karak" we find that the red of the old fortress is picked up by the colours of the sunset, while the modern city bathes in an aerial blue mist.

In her paintings of "Amman" the sinuous lines of the winding roads add a dynamism that is already prevalent in the dense

cluster of houses. In "Irbid" old houses are seen in the foreground, new ones in the background. Her landscapes always relate a story, an epic of days gone by, where modern buildings are seen as vestiges of a crude civilisation: creeping in like a monster, riding the place of all its ethnic charm.

In the Seven Hills, Riham creates a masterpiece where branches form a teeming movement, picked up by patches of light on the ground. A truly dynamic painting.

This exhibition will continue until March 16.

Symposium on history of Bilad ul Sham opens

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A symposium on the history of Bilad ul Sham was organised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage at the Jordan Academy of Arabic in Amman Thursday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri, who deputised for Prince Hassan, delivered the opening speech in which he laid emphasis to the Umayyad era of Arab history, which was the subject of discussion by the participants.

The Umayyad epoch, he said,

was abound with events that had their impact on the course of history in this part of the world, the minister said.

The minister said the symposium was part of the ministry's current month-long cultural programme designed to highlight pan-Arab culture and literature.

Speakers, who included writers, university professors and academicians, dwelt in their speeches on the Bilad ul Sham region in history, focusing on administrative, military and cultural developments in the region, which encompasses Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

Japan grants sound equipment to Jerash

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Japan Thursday signed and exchanged memoranda under which the latter will grant the Kingdom JD 175,000 worth of sound equipment to be used at the annual Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

The memoranda, signed by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and Japan's Ambassador in Amman Makoto Watanabe, stated that the equipment will be channelled through the Higher National Committee of the Jerash

Festival which operates the annual event at the ancient city in the summer.

The equipment will include a number of audio-mixers, power amplifiers, a diversity tuners and loud speakers.

Japan so far extended six cultural grants to Jordan amounting to JD 925,000. These include one for the Ministry of Education in 1982, another for the University of Jordan in 1984 and a third for the Jordan Sports Federation for the handicapped in 1986.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Al Tunisiyya at Al Qadisiyya College.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Noelle Shawa at Alia Art Gallery.
- * A graphic art exhibition displaying works by German artists Lieberman, Slevogt and Cornish at the Jordan National Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizkullah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.
- * An art exhibition entitled "Jordan in Spring" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Tuebigen Atlas of the Middle East" (with a lecture by Dr. Kamal Abdul Fattah on the historical geography of Jordan within the work of the Tuebigen Atlas) at the Yarmouk University — 4:00 p.m.

THEATRE

- * A French play entitled "Les Boulingrin" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:15 p.m.

LECTURES

- * A lecture entitled "Old Egypt in Medieval Islamic Thought" by Prof. Dr. Ulrich Haarmann of the University of Freiburg, at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.
- * A lecture, in Arabic, by Prof. Dr. Ulrich Haarmann entitled "Nation and Fatherland in Medieval Christianity and Islam" at the University of Jordan — 12:00 noon.

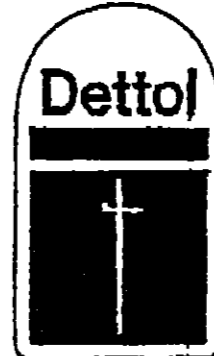
FILM

- * A German video for children entitled "Echt in Matsch" at the Goethe Institute — 4:00 p.m.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN THE

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Healthy process

COMING as they do in the wake of His Majesty King Hussein's talk with a delegation of Jordanian university students, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's encounters with two Jordanian groups Wednesday are in essence a continuation of the process of dialogue between the government and the people of Jordan.

In the absence of parliamentary life, such meetings and exchanges of views serve to fill a vacuum in these trying times. The occasion of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council between Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen is of such historic importance that warrants the continuation of this process of dialogue with a view to bringing the people of Jordan closer to the momentous decision which brought them operational unity with three other Arab countries. One would hope that this process of exchanging views between the government and the people could proliferate to reach other segments of the population. Obviously it would not be feasible for the most senior officials of the government to pursue this dialogue process all the way down to every part of the Jordanian society on their own. Other Jordanians, from other vantage point of view, are also called upon to engage the people with whom they enjoy direct contact to explain Jordan's current political and economic paths. For example, universities in Jordan can also act as catalysts between the people and the government on such important policy decision as the one undertaken by the country on the formation of the ACC. One can envisage a series of lectures from the Jordanian academia to the students as well as the public on the infrastructure of the newly formed Arab Cooperation Council and the motivations behind it. To be sure other Jordanian professionals from both the public and private sectors can also lend a helping hand in explaining Jordan's basic policies vis-a-vis fundamental issues and conflicts affecting Jordan and Jordanians.

Likewise Jordan Television and Radio can contribute a great deal to enhancing this process of dialogue. By airing the views of government officials and the hopes and aspirations of the citizens, both institutions can enlighten people on the potentials of the ACC and on other matters of public concern.

And if the momentum of such contacts and encounters can be maintained over a long period of time, the coherency of momentous decisions would become that much more enhanced.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE entry of the Palestinian uprising into its 16th month provided a subject for discussion in an editorial published by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. The paper said that the continuation of the revolt against Israel's presence in the occupied Arab territories is designed to foil Zionist's attempts to drive the Arab inhabitants out of their homeland and represents the Palestinian people's resolve to regain their freedom. The uprising which has been intensified lately is following a clear pattern of violent clashes with the Israeli troops and settlers in a bid to force them to leave the Arab areas and to force their government to accept the idea of an international conference where lasting peace can be formulated, the paper noted. It said that in its drive to achieve its national objectives, the Palestinian uprising has been backed by Jordan along with the rest of Arab countries which are oriented towards peace and continue to seek an end to the Palestinian people's sufferings.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily strongly criticises Iranian leaders' latest statements in which they said that Iraq would not be allowed to use the water ways in Shatt Al Arab area. Rakan Al Majali, who is the paper's editor, says that these statements indicate clearly that the Iranians are oriented towards war and more bloodshed. Such statements, he notes, are not only designed to obstruct the on-going United Nations efforts to implement Security Council resolutions for ending the conflict for good, but they also tend to force Iraq to take all military precautions to deal with such situation. These statements, the writer says, are tantamount to declaring a war on Iraq anew and represent a total intransigence on the part of the regime in Tehran with regard to the establishment of security and peace in the Gulf region. In its battle to achieve peace in the Gulf, the writer concludes, Iraq ought to be supported by all Arabs with all their resources and their might.

Al Dustour daily tackles statements by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai at a meeting held Wednesday at the headquarters of the national Jordanian committee for the international chamber of commerce. Jordan is looking with confidence towards the 1990s with all the public sectors involved in rebuilding the national economy and bolstering self-capabilities, the prime minister said. The paper referred to the government's recent economic and financial measures which it said had paved the way for attaining the aspired goals of enhancing the Jordanian people's self dependence and rationalising their spending in a bid to boost the national economy. The paper said that the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council as referred to by the prime minister is bound to open the door wide for inter-Arab economic cooperation, which in turn will bolster Jordan's national economy.

Sawt Al Shaab daily referred to Thursday's meeting by the higher planning committee chaired by Prince Hassan. It said that the meeting ended with important decisions pertaining to the re-scheduling of Jordan's debts and the preservation of Jordan's credibility with the various international financial organisations. The paper referred to Prince Hassan's emphasis on economic development especially with regard to the development of the Badia and southern region and said that these directives reflect the Jordanian leadership's keen interest in ensuring decent living for the Jordanian people and highlights the government's determination to abide by these directives.

Muslim fundamentalists demand more say in Algeria

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuters

ALGIERS — An hour before Friday's midday prayers, the maze of shabby alleyways and streets around the unfinished mosque of Imam Ali Bel Hadj in central Algiers is thick with young bearded men.

Brightly-coloured prayer mats laid end-to-end carpet the entire area as the faithful gather in huddles to exchange confidences on the week just passed.

The mosque in the heart of the teeming inner-city district of Bad El Oued — scene of some of the worst violence in five days of rioting last October — is one of the centres of Algerian Muslim fundamentalism.

Ali Bel Hadj — a thin, bespectacled man of 32 — is the movement's best-known leader. Since October, he has emerged as the main fundamentalist critic of

government policy.

Initially caught by surprise by the riots — mainly involving unemployed youths — the fundamentalists quickly organised anti-government demonstrations and have since kept up pressure for a more Islamic society.

Dismissed by the authorities for years as an irrelevant minority, they have taken advantage of a more liberal political climate that followed the riots to establish themselves as an emergent force in society.

Now, they are rarely absent from the pages of the government-controlled press, alarming some other Algerians who feel they are receiving too much publicity and the government may make too many concessions.

Shortly before a Feb. 23 referendum on a new more liberal constitution, adopted a few days later by an overwhelming majority. Bel Hadj and other fun-

damentalist leaders formed the Islamic Salvation Front.

They urged Algerians to abstain from voting, saying Islam, law must be applied. They also demand the freeing of a group of fundamentalists jailed for plotting against the state.

Such views seem to find little support among the majority of Algerians who strongly favour political reforms ending 27 years of state-socialism and the one-party rule of the National Liberation Front (FLN).

But some Algerians fear diehards in the FLN, worried at the prospect of losing power, may be tempted to do deals with the fundamentalists, particularly at local level.

"Both stand to lose out in free elections," said a student in Algiers.

Government officials, however, say the fundamentalists represent a strand of thought within

the country, and must therefore be allowed to express themselves like any other. Some argue the best way to undercut their support is to give them a free hand.

"Bel Hadj's interview (with L'Horizon) cost him a lot of support. When people know what they really stand for, they lose their attraction," a senior government official told Reuters.

Supporters say between 10-15 per cent of Algerians back the fundamentalists. Others put it at as little as five per cent.

At the university campus of Bouzareah on the hilly outskirts, many students wear the traditional fundamentalist garb of skull-caps and robes but they are heavily outnumbered by others in blue jeans and tee-shirts.

Nevertheless, many Algerian women admit they are worried by the fundamentalist presence in a society where equality in education and career is inscribed in the

constitution.

"The natural place for women is in the home. If she has to leave it, there must be conditions — not alongside men. Her employment must be in an exclusively female environment," Bel Hadj told L'Horizon.

"A man and a woman working in the same office is in perfect contradiction with our morals," he said.

He added girls and boys should not go to mixed schools and should receive different educations in line with their sex.

A woman working in a senior job in the country's energy ministry could not hide her anxiety over such statements.

"It's very worrying this trend. They want to put the clock back. They're not very strong yet, though," she said, nervously strumming the top of her desk with long painted nails. "I just find them a bit unsettling."

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IMF sticks to its guns despite Venezuelan price riots

By Alan Wheatley
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Among the many casualties of last week's price riots in Venezuela is Michel Camdessus' hope of creating a kinder, gentler image for the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"There is a lesson to be drawn from the Venezuelan experience. Adjustment must not be delayed, and the longer that it is delayed the higher the price that must be paid in terms of sacrifice required to rectify the situation."

Yet far from sowing doubts about the fund's policies, the riots have strengthened the IMF managing director's belief that the longer economic adjustment is postponed the more painful it becomes.

"There is a lesson to be drawn from the Venezuelan experience. Adjustment must not be delayed, and the longer that it is delayed the higher the price that must be paid in terms of sacrifice required to rectify the situation," Camdessus told the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs.

"This cost is unavoidable, irrespective of whether or not the fund is involved," he added.

The rioting, in which at least 200 people have been killed, is a blow for Camdessus, who has worked hard in the two years since he took charge at the fund to overcome the hatred that much of the Third World has for the agency.

He has raised \$8 billion to be lent on easy terms to the poorest countries, streamlined loan conditions and assured borrowers in advance that they will be protected from external shocks such as slumping commodity prices.

The IMF has also encouraged governments to find ways of sheltering the poorest when belt-tightening programmes are put in place.

"The effects of economic adjustment policies and programmes on the living standards of the poor are an important concern," Peter Heller of the fund's fiscal affairs department said.

"The poor should be safeguarded, where possible, from the adverse effects these programmes can have in the short run," he wrote recently in a Finance and Development, a fund publication.

The problem is that the fund can advise governments what to do, but cannot tell them how to do it. Thus all too often, fund officials say, the pain of adjustment falls heaviest on the weakest while the ruling elites are able to cushion the impact on their standards of living.

"We have not dictated, nor can we ever dictate, measures to a sovereign country," said Camdessus, who expressed sorrow and grief for the victims of the rioting in Venezuela.

Another official added, "although we can make suggestions, how they use the money has to be the decision of a sovereign government."

The upheaval comes at an awkward time for the fund. Anticipating the day when the U.S. treasury will support a new injection of capital, it is pondering

how to improve its image with Congress, which would have to approve the funds.

The IMF has few friends on Capitol Hill. Some congressmen think its loans bail out commercial banks. Conservatives dislike its loan conditions. Liberals, even before the Venezuelan disorders, blamed the fund for imposing austerity.

"The fund has no natural constituency," a monetary source said. Whereas the World Bank enjoys support from businesses that get procurement orders and from countries that benefit from its development loans, the IMF gets no thanks for being called in to help solve economic crises, he said.

The Third World remembers that riots touched off by price rises ordered by the IMF killed more than 50 people in the Dominican Republic in 1984 and that the Sudanese government was toppled in 1985 after the IMF suspended loans.

Bankers and many U.S. officials, by contrast, sympathise with the fund argument that delays in adjusting government budgets to changed economic conditions make matters worse.

Thus they have great respect for Venezuela President Carlos Andres Perez's political courage. Camdessus, aware of worries that the disturbances could lead to political upheaval, added, "Sound economic policies remain the best way of consolidating democracy."

Ironically, it was in Caracas last May that Camdessus appealed to governments to reduce less urgent expenditures in order to protect the poorest segments of the population when making necessary economic adjustments.

"Let me not, though, suggest that any of it will be easy," he warned. It was a prophetic remark.

Mideast missile race heats up

By Sajid Rizvi

LONDON — The "Islamic Bomb," a favourite scratching-post for even the most strident of the military analysts, may not be about to detonate but the missile race is warming up in the Middle East.

This would vindicate those U.S. administration campaigners who inaugurated the George Bush presidency with profuse leaks of purportedly renewed U.S. government efforts to contain a ballistic missile race in the region.

Western, Arab and Asian analysts have identified three causes of a potential missile build-up: the Soviet Union, whose products were used with deadly effectiveness in the Iran-Iraq "war of the cities," with thousands of reported casualties; the United States and its allies including Israel; and regional powers with indigenous capability.

Israel has had ballistic missile capability for at least a decade, according to informed analysts. Recent western studies identified it as a covert nuclear power with an arsenal large enough to plunge the whole of the Middle East into a nuclear holocaust. But it is only since the Gulf escalation brought the missiles into major use and only since that experience convinced other regional powers of the desirability of having missiles in their inventories that the U.S. officials have pronounced concern over a missile race in the Middle East.

When the missile race officially began hardly matters, however. It is the evolution of indigenous missile development that has put the issue in sharp relief. The Turkish media recently reported that Turkey, the only NATO member with a Muslim majority population, and the one unhappy with the alliance allocations for military modernisation, had been offered missile technology by the latest entrant in the field — Pakistan.

The offer reportedly was made when a Pakistani delegation visited Turkey in mid-January and, according to one report, "offered to share Pakistan's missile technology, open up the country's missile programme to Turkey and train Turkish scientists at facilities in Pakistan."

Pakistan is judged to be ahead of Turkey in surface-to-surface missile technology although, pa-

radoxically, Turkey is home to NATO nuclear missiles which will be launched from Turkish soil in the event of a war. Why Pakistan, which has nearly a quarter of Turkey's income a head and double its population, should be spending hard cash on building missiles is rationalised by its perceived exposure to the twin threat from Afghanistan and India, the latter already a missile power.

Pakistan's military development programme in any case is still working at the momentum given to it by the former military regime. Whether the missile development programme will be curtailed by the civilian government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto remains moot. But until something happens to it, the programme is going apace and appears set to expand.

In February, Pakistan announced that it had successfully tested its "long-range" surface-to-surface missile for the second time from a base near Karachi. "The system worked perfectly, achieving the predicted range and accuracy," a government statement in Islamabad said without giving the missile's range.

The tests were hailed by the Pakistanis as a landmark achievement, though their alleged long range was doubted by independent experts. Andrew Duncan, military expert with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London, said the range of the two Pakistani missiles tested so far was between 80 and 300 kilometres — which would put them in the short and medium range categories respectively.

The missiles and their guidance systems were reportedly developed in Pakistan. In Indo-Pakistan terms, they were seen by experts as an answer to India's short (250 km)-range *Prithvi* and medium-range *Agni* missiles.

The Pakistani development came at a time when U.S. officials have admitted slow progress on efforts to limit the missile race in the Middle East. A congressional report recently cited missile acquisitions on both sides of the spectrum, i.e. in countries friendly to the Soviet Union as well as those with close U.S. ties.

So far the U.S. diplomatic effort against the missile development has been mounted indepen-

dent of the diplomatic attempts at defusing the Palestinian-Israeli crisis, or helping a resolution of the Afghanistan conundrum or the deadlock in the post-truce reconciliation between Iraq and Iran.

But independent observers argue that this approach is unrealistic. Arab diplomatic sources in Washington, for example, have maintained that the missile race is directly related to the sense of insecurity created by Israel's nuclear capability. This argument figured prominently at the recent Paris conference on chemical weapons, where western concerns over chemical warfare proliferation were noted for the absence of any reference to Israel's nuclear capability.

"So long as Israel's nuclear capability remains outside international control or monitoring the argument for maintaining a conventional deterrent force in the Arab World will remain a strong one," a Washington-based diplomat told *Academic File* recently. "It is not that the Arab countries are particularly awash with petrodollars or that they can go on spending on military stockpiles. It's a matter of sheer necessity."

U.S. diplomatic initiatives on the ballistic missiles issue so far have skirted what others see as the "linkage" between the various levels of military buildup in the Middle East. "It is quite ludicrous to separate the issues of chemical and nuclear proliferation and the matter of ballistic missiles," said one analyst. "To my mind they are interdependent; one problem cannot be addressed without attention to the others."

Although Israel has had a long-standing programme to develop long-range missiles, it was initially the Egyptian programme that apparently awakened U.S. officials to the need for diplomatic action. The throwback from the Gulf war and missile purchases elsewhere in the Arab World led U.S. negotiators to intensify their efforts. Before Bush took over in January, U.S. officials were hinting at inviting both Egypt and Israel to talks on the missile issue.

Initially, the Bush administration wants to engage the Middle East governments into a framework of cooperation that will involve commitment by each of the countries to provide notice of test launchings. Although innocuous at face value, U.S. offi-

cials hope that such an arrangement will enable the administration to monitor and assess the potential of each of the missile-owning countries.

The test monitoring arrangements then could be upgraded into a more comprehensive format covering limitation and control of production and deployment.

U.S. government sources said the missile issue now was of high-level concern in the Bush administration, because of fears that the ballistic missiles already in Middle Eastern stockpiles could be used to carry chemical or nuclear warheads. However there are deep differences between the Pentagon and the State Department over how to translate that concern into policy — or how to limit proliferation.

The hardliners, who oppose any proliferation outside the western camp, as well as supporters of Israel, who have advocated a ban on any Arab state possessing ballistic missiles, have had to contend with the pragmatists who feel that the United States must seek the confidence of the regional governments rather than risking confrontation, particularly since most of the countries involved are its allies.

Pentagon experts have cited arguments for seeking Arab pledges against "first use" and on the size and nature (nuclear, chemical, conventional, etc.) of the payload. What few of the administration experts have failed to acknowledge is that military deployment in the Middle East is the direct outcome of the Arab states' threat perception vis a vis Israel's nuclear capability.

Many of the U.S. administration's respected — and hence influential — experts still seem to believe that the issues of Israel's nuclear power, chemical weapons and missiles production have to be treated separately. It is because of this prevailing narrow-focus view that analysts feel there cannot be a breakthrough on missiles without movement on the wider issue of Palestine.

Similarly in the case of the Pakistan-India competition, diplomats believe that the missile race cannot be stopped unless there is genuine movement towards reconciliation between the two sides and until the Afghanistan situation is seen to settle down — *Academic file*.

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The television challenge

This is the first of a two-part report on how television influences contemporary society.

In this essay Joshua Meyrowitz, a media analyst in the tradition of the late Marshall McLuhan, discusses how television influences contemporary society. He argues that TV is an intimate medium of expression, not of ideas. It promotes the "performance" aspects of events: "On television, even political debates have little to do with words and arguments and much to do with image and style." As an all-purpose source of entertainment and news, it blurs the distinction between reality and drama, between events and commentary on those events. In reporting on our culture, television changes that culture, then reports on those changes and reworks them again.

Meyrowitz's insights into the role of television in the United States are increasingly relevant to other cultures. In 1986, there were over 625 million television sets in the world, one for every eight men, women and children. Although the author's point of departure here is the explicit challenge the small screen presents to a competing medium — the theatre — he addresses the covert challenge TV makes to us all: to use language and reason to connect the dots behind the shimmering images. Joshua Meyrowitz is a professor of communication at the University of New Hampshire. His award-winning book, "No Sense of Place: The Impact of Electronic Media on Social Behaviour" (Oxford University Press) was recently published in paperback. This essay is based on a speech he delivered to a national conference of the Theatre Communication Group.

slides in other states and the latest political scandal than the troubles of nearly anyone except perhaps a handful of close family, friends and colleagues.

Television has become our largest shared arena. When a friend sings exquisitely, we no longer say, "You should sing in our church," but rather, "You should be on television." Our funniest friends are wished an appearance on a television comedy show, not a performance at the town hall.

Comparisons

Among the effects of this phenomenon is that we have lost the old isolated experience of "local talent." Every actor, singer, magician and comedian is now compared — not to one's other neighbours and friends — but to a handful of superstars, an almost impossible condition of comparison.

The United States' early presidents were seen by only a few of the voters of their day; now it is impossible to image a candidate who has not visited every voter on television. And so it is that politicians, salespeople and terrorists all design their messages to capture the television eye.

Television has joined the marketplace and the street corner as another environment to be observed, but not necessarily identified with. With TV there is little personal investment. Watching is convenient and easy.

We don't have to travel to a theatre or expend any of the energy needed for reading. Ironically, the lack of personal association with TV content allows for the most widespread sharing of similar experience in the history of civilisation. It is not unusual for a person to watch a TV show avidly and yet comment, "I can't believe people watch this stuff!" or, "What's the world coming to!"

Television's rapid and widespread invasion has transformed the relative place of theatre in society. The television arena challenges the theatre, not just by filling people's leisure time, not just by offering inexpensive and convenient alternatives to travelling to a theatre and paying for a ticket, not just by cheapening tastes, but by altering our sense of public discourse, by changing the dividing line between drama and reality, by altering the ways in which we perceive created social reality and by changing the social backdrop against which theatre is performed.

Cultural commentators have suggested that the theatre's vulnerability to censorship grows out of its use of language to make its points. This same reliance on language is what makes the theatre so vulnerable to the implicit censorship of television. The massive saturation of television has deadened us to language. We have become accustomed to responding to images. We watch television, rather than listen to it.

We feel good or bad about, rather than think about its arguments and language.

Intimacy

On television, even political debates have very little to do with words and arguments, and much to do with image and style. Few people respond to a television debate by saying, "That was a good argument," or, "That's historically inaccurate." Much more common is a reaction such as: "I don't trust him"; "I like her!" "He looks nervous"; "He's doing very well." "Look at those bags under his eyes."

Why do we respond to TV emotionally rather than rationally? One reason is the sense of intimacy and closeness that television simulates. We experience people on television as if they are not more than a metre away from us. Even in real life, that is an emotional, personal distance — a distance of seduction or threat, not of discussion. When we are on a date, for example, we often pay little attention to what our companion says. The words, "I had a very nice time," or, "That was a good movie," don't tell us much. So we focus on other things. Is the other person looking at us in the eyes? How close to us is she standing? Does he seem nervous? Similarly, in the intimate, simulated space of television we focus on image, gesture and style.

Attention to words increases with the distance the hearer is from the speaker. We need to have at least two to three metres of distance to focus closely on words and stop giving our primary attention to the personal being of the speaker. Ten metres would be even better.

In the theatre, audiences usually have enough distance from the actors to pay serious attention to what's being said. In the television close-up, we tend to focus on personality.

It is common to hear that "a picture is worth a thousand words," but it is a very misleading saying because it suggests that words and images can be equated with, and translated into, each other. Actually, words and pictures are two completely different types of symbols that are perceived by different hemispheres of the brain in most people. All human interaction involves these two different types of symbols: language-like communication and image-like expression. Expressions include gestures, signs, vocalisations and movements produced by the mere presence of a person in an environment. Expressions are like pictures without captions. They are more direct and more ambiguous, more natural yet less precise than linguistic statements.

Expressions come directly from a person; they suggest how a person really feels and what he or she is really like. Yet one cannot

base a contract on a smile, a wink or a chuckle. Unless words are used to explain expressions, their meanings are often ambiguous.

Language offers things that images can't provide: long, sequential lines of argument, if-then relationships, syllogistic analyses and propositions that can be proven true or false. Further, while expressions are always limited to telling us something about the expressor, words in a book or a monologue in a play can be about events in other countries, activities that took place in the past or are planned for the future, or unobservable abstractions.

Ideas live through language, not through expressions and images. One can show a picture of a big statue, but the idea of "liberty" needs to be discussed in language.

It is not surprising that drama or comedy programmes or advertisements would want to circumvent rationality, but it is upsetting to realise that television news and documentaries often do the same. Transcripts of TV newscasts often contain surprisingly little linguistic information. A microphone and camera thrust in the face of an airplane-crash survivor yield very little communicated information, but they offer viewers rich source of expressions. Similarly, precious seconds of air time are often used on local news shows for friendly bantering among the newscasters. The quips and interchanges are almost always low-level communications, but they are meaningful expressions. They are intended to make the viewer feel that the newscasters are "nice people" and that they are each other's friends off the set.



Mitterrand, an unprecedented exposure



Media let down



Bush vs. Dukakis in a TV debate

TELEVISION is not something that serious artists and intellectuals like to talk much about, except to dismiss it or attack it. When we do talk about it, we tend to focus on the content. We talk about good shows and bad shows. We say things such as: "I only watch the news," "I watch only educational television," or "What a piece of junk that programme is."

But to reduce television to a cultural nuisance, to a sickly disguised salesman, is to miss what is happening in our culture because of television, and what television — not through its content, but as a certain form of experience — does to those intellectual and artistic endeavours we may hold dear. It is television as an environment that is shaping and reshaping national character and contemporary patterns of feeling and thought.

In 1950, only nine per cent of American households owned television sets. By 1977, the figure had risen to 98 per cent, matching the use of indoor plumbing. On average, households keep the set on 50 hours a week. Individually, Americans watch an average of 30 hours a week. There are very few things that people do more than they watch television. We begin peering at TV through the bars of

cribs and continue looking at it through cataracts of old age. Television is the context within which most of us perceive the world, within which we think about politics, about entertainment, about news, about almost everything, including drama and theatre.

Whether we like it or not, playwrights who want to reach a broad audience are writing for a television audience — not that their plays must be produced on TV, but rather that most people's views of social life, the world and appropriate ways of thinking, behaving and reacting have all been affected by their experience with television.

Contexts and places

Ironically, while TV is the new context within which we experience so many things, TV itself fosters contextless and placeless experiences. Television breaks the age-old connection between the places we are in and what we can experience and see with our own eyes. With television, we no longer simply live in our homes or in our communities. Many of us now pay more attention to, and talk more about, terrorism in the Mideast, starvation in Africa, a teacher killed in the explosion of the space shuttle, fires or mud

Lessons about AIDS from the Black Death

Plagues, man and history

WITH all the scary headlines, the fear of sexual contact, the clamor for compulsory blood tests, it's easy to forget there was ever an epidemic like AIDS. But history is laden with the heavy toll of plagues. The Black Death of the Middle Ages exterminated a third of the population of Europe in just four years. In 1918 a pandemic of influenza killed more than 20 million people in only a few months. Even today, while AIDS continues its alarming spread — nearly 60,000 cases in the United States and 34,000 deaths — malaria remains the world champion of epidemic disease, infecting 200 million new victims every year and killing millions.

The epidemics of the past hold medical lessons that can help keep the AIDS threat in perspective. As University of Chicago professor emeritus William H. McNeill points out in his classic study "Plagues and Peoples," dangerous viruses, bacilli, fungi

and other parasites are simply part of the ecosystem in which all animals and plants live. Frightening though they may be, they are only carrying out nature's mandate to reproduce; the insidious HIV doesn't know that, by choosing the blood cells of the human immune system in which to propagate, it is killing its host. And, in fact, should an infectious organism be too virulent, it would kill off all its potential hosts, and finally itself.

Similar messages, ultimately more hopeful than grim, will be featured in an hour-long television documentary called "Plagues," which will be shown this month on U.S. public television. The narrator is Dr. Baruch Blumberg of the Fox Chase Cancer Centre in Philadelphia. He won a Nobel Prize in 1976, in part for critical discoveries about the hepatitis B virus, a wretched plague in many parts of the world. His work helped lead to a vaccine

for the disease. "With the fear ... even say the paranoia about AIDS," he says, "it's a good time to take another look at epidemics."

To historians, there's nothing really new about AIDS. Epidemics have changed the course of human events just as readily as wars, religious movements, royal houses and the imperatives of trade between nations. In fact, smallpox brought by the Spaniards did more than gunpowder for the European conquest of the New World; the bubonic plague of 1346 to 1352 took its toll equally among all classes — clergy, landowners and serfs — and eventually helped bring an end to feudalism.

Each epidemic carries its own macabre lineage. The Black Death occurred because the bacillus known as *Yersinia pestis* had done such an efficient job of killing off one of its hosts, the common rat. The germ was carried from rat to rat by fleas that normally fed on the blood of rodents. But as the rats died off, fleas accosted people for their blood meal and transmitted the deadly bacillus in the process. In the unsanitary, crowded conditions of the time, the result was devastating. In a few days victims

came down with swollen lymph nodes in the armpits and groin, the buboes that give "bubonic plague" its name. Death occurred as the disease infected the bloodstream or caused pneumonia. After several recurrences, the epidemic burned itself out — though the disease still exists in parts of the world, including the United States. According to one theory, a less lethal strain of the bacillus evolved: fewer rats died and therefore there was no need for the fleas to bite humans.

It wasn't until the influenza epidemic of 1918-19 that the world knew another epidemic comparable to that of the bubonic plague. Except for elderly or debilitated patients, a bout of flu usually amounts to no more than a few days of fever, coughing and muscular aches and pains. But this flu virus was different. Blumberg says, infecting fully half the world's population and killing many of them within days. "Sometimes they couldn't get them buried fast enough," says a survivor in "Plagues." "Undertakers were afraid to enter the house," recalls another. As with AIDS, there was a certain degree of panic. In San Francisco, the police wore masks and arrested people who didn't — Newsweek.

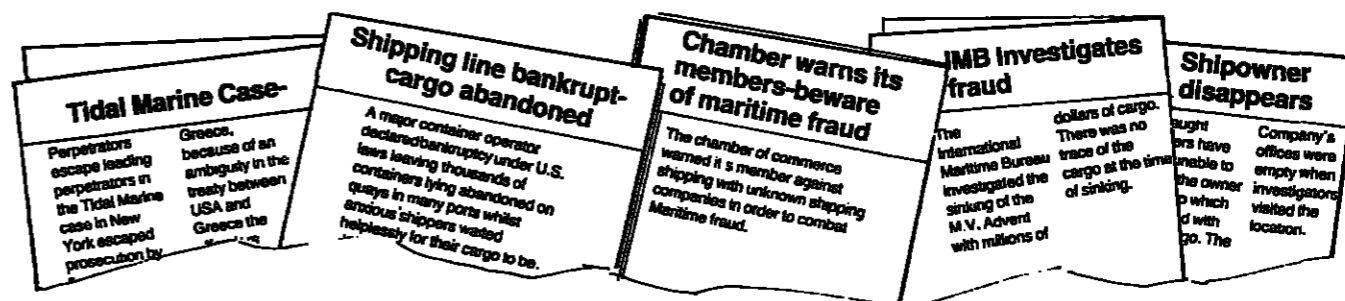


A physician tends to victims of the Black Death

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Bankers expect U.S. debt plan to focus on interest rate relief

NEW YORK (R) — The new U.S. policy on Third World debt will focus on easing the interest rate burden while increasing the onus on debtor nations to prove they represent a good risk, bankers said.

"Countries are saying that they want debt relief. That's fine, but some of them have to improve their credit standing in return so that we feel justified," said one U.S. banker.

Bankers believe the new U.S. debt plan, expected to be announced soon, will include a proposal that commercial banks swap their existing loans for bonds.

"Most people are anticipating a proposal involving a bond exchange," said George Vojta, a member of the management committee at Bankers Trust New York Corp. "But there are many questions to be raised, such as how new money would be handled and what linkage there would be to equity conversion."

Bankers believe the bond exchange proposal will be structured in one of two ways. One version would involve banks swapping their existing loans for bonds issued by a debtor country at full face value, but the bonds would carry a below-market interest rate, say of six per cent.

Based on a three-month LIBOR (London Inter Bank Offered Rate) of 10 1/4 per cent, even more creditworthy debtors like Mexico are now paying almost 11 per cent on some loans.

Under a second version, banks would swap their loans for bonds, at say 60 cents on the dollar, but receive full market interest rates.

White House officials were playing down the possibility that the relief plan would include debt forgiveness to heavily indebted nations, a move President Bush has criticised.

A bonds-for-loans swap arranged for Mexico by J.P. Morgan and Co. Inc. in February 1988 resulted in a net debt reduction of just \$1.1 billion. The deal received a lukewarm response from banks because while the principal amount of the bonds at maturity was guaranteed, interest payments were not.

This time, bankers say credit enhancement would be required

for the exchange to succeed. The guarantees would need to come not from debtor nations, which have insufficient reserves, but from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund or some other agency.

In the past, the U.S. Treasury has resisted the idea of the World Bank or another agency giving guarantees, partly because it could appear the commercial banks were receiving special consideration. One way round that objection would be for banks to pay a fee for the guarantees.

The two versions of the bond swap would carry differing accounting implications for U.S. banks.

If opting for bonds at 100 cents on the dollar, some bankers said the debt would be viewed as restructured under the non-performing assets category.

But if "the hit is taken up front" and banks accept bonds at less than face value, they would likely need to take a charge against reserves, an outcome that some may find distasteful, said one banker.

"If the only choice banks have is between these two options, most would probably go for the lower interest rate rather than an up-front hit," he said.

But in reality, bankers expect the new version of the 1985 U.S. debt plan will include other provisions, such as fresh loans and interest capitalisation for European banks.

Walter Shipley, chairman of Chemical Bank Corp., told reporters recently he was impressed by the U.S. Treasury's commitment to move quickly toward a debt solution.

"They will be moving rapidly. I get a real sense of commitment," Shipley said.

But it will be the commercial banks that will bear the brunt of the new debt relief policy, bankers said. "It will look as though banks are taking most of the pain," said one.

Midland chairman rejects Third World debt pardon

A senior European banker has rejected the idea of mandatory reduction of Third World debt and instead called for voluntary reductions combined with fresh credit.

"In examining the options available... I can readily concede that the present strategy is somewhat frayed at the edges," said Sir Kit McMahon, chairman of Britain's Midland Bank Group. "Nevertheless, I find it difficult to conclude that a radical departure is required," he told the British Chamber of Commerce in Mexico City.

McMahon said a forced reduction would cut off large debtors like Mexico from access to future capital flows and would be inequitable, especially for those countries that have made painful economic adjustments in order to meet their debt obligations.

He added that there would be legal difficulties if the creditors were not in agreement with the reduction.

"The positive impact on borrowing countries of a 30 per cent reduction in their debt may also

be considerably less than is often supposed by its advocates," he said.

"This leads me to conclude that the way forward lies not in a radical change but in strengthening what we already have," the banker said.

"This will involve a blend of various types of voluntary debt reduction, combined with new lending from commercial banks, multilateral institutions and government and other forms of private sector financing, in particular direct investment..." McMahon said.

He said that as there is little to be gained for either lenders or borrowers to treat large debtor nations the same as small debtors "financing needs will have to continue to be addressed on a case-by-case basis."

He said he would expect separate negotiations to continue "as different groups of creditors have somewhat different priorities."

He added, however, two things must change for a country like Mexico, where gross domestic product per capita has fallen for three years: First, a reduction in the net outward transfer of resources and second, a continued commitment to structural reform.

British led all foreigners in buying U.S. firms

Most Americans consider Japan number one economic power

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. citizens by a two-to-one margin believe that Japan, not the United States, is now the leading economic power in the world, according to a public opinion poll.

The poll, conducted by the Gallup Organisation for the Times Mirror Co., found that 59 per cent of U.S. citizens now rank Japan as the no. 1 economic power with only 29 per cent of those polled believing that the United States still holds that position.

"Our survey finds, beneath the surface of general economic contentment, much unease about the loss of U.S. economic power to foreign competition," said Gallup President Andrew Kohut. "People see our ability to compete as declining in the Reagan years."

There is a sharp split between the general public and opinion leaders over the threat posed by foreign competition. The survey found that 72 per cent of U.S. opinion leaders still believe the United States is the no. 1 economic power.

There was just as big a disagreement over the question of foreign investment in the United States. An overwhelming majority of the public, 70 per cent, saw foreign investment in very negative terms, with many fearing that

foreigners are "buying" America and threatening our national security.

But opinion leaders saw foreign investment as a vital source of capital for economic expansion.

The survey, one of a series the Los Angeles-based news company has commissioned on U.S. attitudes, was conducted between Jan. 27 and Feb. 5. It consisted of one-hour face-to-face interviews with 2,048 members of the general public and had a margin of error of plus or minus two percentage points.

A separate survey sampled the opinion of 250 government policy makers, corporate executives, Wall Street financiers and foreign investors in the U.S. economy.

The survey, described as the most extensive ever conducted on economic attitudes, found that 54 per cent of U.S. citizens expect that things will be better for them financially next year and another 28 per cent expected no change in their economic outlook. But they were much less optimistic about the nation's overall economic prospects.

By sizable margins, the general public said it expected inflation to worsen, interest rates to be rising and 76 per cent said they expected taxes to be increased in 1989, despite President George

N. Yemen predicts higher budget deficit

SANAA (R) — North Yemen says its budget deficit will more than double during the 1989 fiscal year. The Red Sea country, which has oil income estimated at between \$500 million and \$700 million a year, projects the deficit at 4.7 billion riyals (around \$527 million). In fiscal 1988, the deficit was 1.8 billion riyals (\$200 million). North Yemen's news agency Saba told Reuters Thursday that President Ali Abdullah Saleh ratified the budget with a projected revenue of 16 billion riyals (\$1.8 billion), compared to 13.7 billion riyals (\$1.5 billion) the previous year. The budget forecasts that spending will increase from \$1.7 billion to nearly \$2.3 billion. North Yemen's debt-servicing ratio is one of the lowest among developing nations, according to Western analysts. The International Monetary Fund said North Yemen's total debt stood at around \$3 billion at the end of 1987.

Alfonsin orders probe of austral fall

BUENOS AIRES (R) — President Raul Alfonsin Thursday ordered the police and intelligence agency to investigate a sharp fall in the national currency, the austral, against the dollar, a leading congressman said. The dollar rate rose 15 per cent Wednesday, trading at 42.00 australs after closing at 35.20 Tuesday. It opened at 41.00 australs Thursday, dealers said. They said the dollar soared 30 per cent during the first week of March. Congressman Jesus Rodriguez told reporters Alfonsin ordered the federal police and the state intelligence bureau to look into the possible causes of the abrupt rise in the dollar. Rodriguez said the feeling was that farm sectors and members of the main opposition Peronist Party were trying to "twist Argentines' arms" by provoking tension in the financial markets. He said there was no economic explanation for the fluctuation. The dollar began to soar after Feb. 6, which dealers called "black Monday," when the central bank announced it was withdrawing its support for the austral on the exchange market because reserves had fallen to dangerously low levels.

Thatcher stresses inflation fight

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Thursday stressed the government's determination to fight inflation and defended its policy of using high interest rates to cool an overheating economy. Speaking just five days before Britain's annual budget is announced, Thatcher emphasised her commitment to rein back inflation, currently running at a six-year high of 7.5 per cent. "The worst thing we could do for business, for investment, and for confidence, would be to sit back and let inflation mount," she told businessmen in a speech in Gateshead, northeast England. The government, battling to control inflation and improve poor trade figures, has raised interest rates nine times since last June, from 7.5 per cent to their present level of 13 per cent. "Right now we have to bear down on inflation and so in time reduce the trade deficit. That is why we acted quickly last year to raise interest rates," Thatcher said. "Of course, higher interest rates are unwelcome to those who borrow, although not to those who save. But it is saving that we need to encourage, while we discourage borrowing to finance excessive consumption."

Ford to retire from top car maker

DEARBORN, Michigan (R) — An era in Ford Motor Co. history ended Thursday with the announcement that Vice Chairman William Clay Ford, grandson of company founder Henry Ford, will retire from management at the end of the month. Ford, the senior-ranking family member in a company position, will turn 64 March 14. He has been a member of the Ford board of directors since 1948. His retirement had been expected for the last several weeks. The company said Ford would remain in his positions on the board and as chairman of the finance and executive committees. "We will miss Bill Ford's contributions to the management of the company," said Ford Chairman Donald Petersen. Ford is the brother of the late company chairman Henry Ford II. Despite his long career with the company, Ford has never taken a visible role in company affairs, acting as a behind-the-scenes adviser on strategic matters.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, March 9, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	French franc	85.0
Pound Sterling	922.0	930.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	416.1
Deutschemark	288.6	291.6	Dutch guilder	255.8
Swiss franc	330.0	341.4	Swedish crown	84.4
			Italian lira (for 100)	39.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	137.8

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	March 4-8	Feb. 25-March 1
Daily average	JD 1,201,196	JD 586,326
Total volume	JD 4,804,782	JD 2,931,631
Total shares	1,965,270	1,601,339
No. of contracts	1,946	2,667
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 1,321,202 (27.5%)	JD 2,025,972 (69.1%)
Financial	JD 810,394 (16.8%)	JD 614,049 (20.9%)
Service	(54.6%)	(8.9%)
Insurance	(1.1%)	(1.1%)
Share price index	124.8	128.0
No. of companies	63	62
Price movement (rise)	8	11
(decline)	48	45
(stable)	7	6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7225/35	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1965/75	Canadian dollar	
	1.8570/80	Deutschemark	
	2.0950/60	Dutch guilders	
	1.5855/65	Swiss francs	
	38.89/92	Belgian francs	
	6.3000/50	French francs	
	1363/1364	Italian lire	
	128.92/129.02	Japanese yen	
	6.3540/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.7600/50	Norwegian crowns	
	7.2370/2420	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	396.60/397.10	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Stocks pushed slightly higher in the afternoon but the continuing climb in the domestic dollar and interest rate worries dogged the market. The All Ordinaries index rose just 1.0 to close at 1487.5.

TOKYO — The Nikkei index ended firm on late buying, much of it arbitrage with index futures, after staying below Thursday's close for most of the day in featureless trading. The index rose 45.33 to 31,701.78.

HONG KONG — Investors turned cautious ahead of a key U.S. economic indicator, sending turnover on the local bourse lower. The Hang Seng index dropped 15.98 to 3,046.81.

SINGAPORE — The stock market closed on a mixed note, after selective bargain hunting alternated with profit-taking in moderate trade. The Straits Times industrial index rose 4.10 points to end at 1,154.86.

BOMBAY — Share prices soared on heavy speculative buying to close with big gains but below the day's high as institutions sold to book profits at the end. In scooters, Bajaj Auto rallied 17.5 rupees to 390.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended a patchy session mixed. Uncertainty over U.S. jobs data due for release later Friday kept trade quiet. The DAX index fell 0.91 to 1,318.51.

ZURICH — Shares closed narrowly mixed in quiet trading as investors waited for U.S. jobs data. The all-share Swiss index closed virtually unchanged at 986.4.

PARIS — Prices fell to end at the day's lows after the U.S. employment data, but volume remained thin.

LONDON — Shares were firm after an erratic afternoon which saw prices slip from their highs following data showing a larger than expected fall in U.S. February unemployment. At 1549 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up eight at 2,083.9.

NEW YORK — Stocks were broadly lower in mid-morning but above their earlier lows. Shares fell on fears of higher U.S. interest rates following the jobs data, which raised concern that the economy was overheating. The Dow was down 13 at 2,277.

Iraq requests big loan

LONDON (R) — Iraq has mandated a British merchant bank and a Bahrain-based bank to arrange a big loan package to help finance Baghdad's post-war economic recovery, officials for the British bank said Thursday.

The London-based Midland Montagu Merchant Bank and Gulf International Bank (GIB) will put together a deal worth £386 million (\$664 million), the Midland officials said.

The mandate stems from an Anglo-Iraqi trade protocol, signed in November, which this year will provide British government guarantees for British exports to Iraq.

The deal will help finance the purchase of capital goods and medicines as well as provide funding for other projects.

Iraq, with an estimated total foreign debt burden of \$70 bil-

lion, faces an immediate reconstruction cost of \$7 billion following the Gulf war ceasefire, an official at the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development said at an Anglo-Arab trade conference here last month.

The official estimated the cost of Iraq's long-term recovery at \$30 billion.

Rescheduling Japanese debts

Banking sources in Tokyo said Friday that Iraq is considering asking Japanese commercial creditors to reschedule some 68 billion yen (\$527 million) owed by the Iraqi central bank.

The debt, which is not guaranteed by Japan's official trade insurance programmes, is owed mainly to major Japanese trade houses, the sources said.

Although Iraq has yet to make a formal request for rescheduling, Japanese creditors may respond positively to help Iraq recover from the eight-year Gulf war with Iran, they said.

The Iraqi debt will probably be rescheduled over three to 3 1/2 years, with a three-year grace period, the sources said.

Earlier this year Japan agreed to allow Iraq to repay part of the 450 to 500 billion yen (\$3.5 to \$3.9 billion) it owes to Japanese companies by transferring 25 per cent of the proceeds of direct crude oil sales to Japan.

That debt had a guarantee of Japanese trade insurance. Japanese creditors also agreed in October to reschedule about 50 billion yen (\$388 million) owed by Iraq's state-owned Rafidain Bank over three years.

Iranian parliament opts for hiking some prices

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's parliament Thursday approved the first reading of a budget bill which would increase prices of subsidised sugar, chicken and eggs, Tehran radio reported.

"We had a choice between increasing borrowing from the central bank or increasing some prices. We chose the latter because of the negative effects of borrowing," Morteza Alviri, head of parliament's plan and budget commission, said on the radio.

He did not say how much would be raised by the price rises, but said the proceeds would be spent to increase wheat yield.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, did not give the overall figures in the bill which covers the next Iranian year beginning March 21. Parliament is now de-

bating details of the budget plan. In the original version proposed by the government, total government spending was projected at 3,865 billion riyals (\$55 billion).

Wealth tax

The government will impose a new value added tax and a one-off wealth tax in the next Iranian year.

Tehran radio quoted a finance ministry official as saying the government expected to raise 255 billion riyals (\$3.5 billion) from the wealth tax — one quarter of the figure previously mentioned.

The official said 50,000 people would be affected by the tax which is imposed on real estate, shares in non-productive companies, fruit orchards and late-model cars.

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Eastern Airlines files for bankruptcy

NEW YORK (R) — Eastern Airlines, crippled by a strike, filed for bankruptcy Thursday but its top executives insisted the action was not a death warrant for the seventh largest U.S. airline.

"The bankruptcy process will assist Eastern in rebuilding itself," company president Phil Bakes told a packed and tense news conference.

"We shouldn't look at this as a death warrant for Eastern," he added.

Frank Lorenzo, the chairman

of Texas Air, Eastern's parent company, told the news conference he bought Eastern three years ago believing in its potential and insisted: "It still can become a vibrant air carrier."

Eastern filed for bankruptcy and protection from its creditors under chapter 11 of U.S. bankruptcy laws on the sixth day of a strike by its 8,500 mechanics and baggage handlers.

The airline's pilots are refusing to cross picket lines and have brought the airline to virtual halt.

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Joint Korean team for games surmounts strife

PANMUNJOM, Korea (R) — North Korean sports officials buried their rancor over South Korea's military exercises with the United States to start preparations Thursday for sending a joint Korean team to next year's Asian games.

In their first encounter at the border village of Panmunjom to consider the feasibility of holding a single team at the games in Peking, sports officials from both sides agreed in principle to do so and immediately began removing political obstacles.

"The first meeting was productive and efficient," chief northern delegate Kim Hyong-Jin told reporters after just over two hours of talks.

Of the three widely expected political obstacles, the two sides quickly struck a deal on an anthem for the joint team and agreed on the basic design for the flag.

Although the question of the team's name remained unresolved, to be taken up again at the next session on March 28, Seoul delegates agreed the talks made smooth progress.

Today's talks were held in a friendly way than was expected and were non-political," said southern chief delegate, Chang Chung-Shik, who like his opposite number is vice-president of his country's national Olympic committee.

If the talks succeed, the two Koreas, which fought a war from 1950-53, will send a joint team to an international sporting event for the first time.

The relaxed sports talks were in sharp contrast to last week's Panmunjom meeting of government officials which bogged down after a bitter wrangle over Seoul's current military manoeuvres with the United States involving 200,000 troops.

Pyeongyang, denouncing Team Spirit 89 as a preparation for a northward attack, accuses Seoul of seeking confrontation and war while paying lip service to dialogue and détente.

After last week's talks aimed at arranging an unprecedented meeting between the prime ministers, South Korean officials said the north's reluctance to carry on dialogue was dampening high hopes for a thaw between the two.

On Thursday, however, North Korean delegates played a tape of the best-known traditional Korean folk song "Arirang," a tune repeatedly heard during ceremonies of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, and proposed it as the joint team's anthem for Peking.

Hearing the evocative tune, a moving reminder of their common heritage, representatives of North and South suddenly appeared to relax in a rare moment of shared emotion.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Spanish rider wins third leg of Spanish race

AGUILAS (AP) — Juan Martinez Oliver won the third leg of the fifth tour of Murcia cycling race Thursday, but Dutch rider Johannes Draaijer kept the overall leadership of the competition. Martinez covered the 140 kilometres (87 miles) in a time of three hours, 20 minutes and 13 seconds, at an average speed of 41.9 kilometres (26.0 miles) per hour, followed by his countryman Victor Gonzalo two seconds behind. Martinez and Gonzalo escaped from the main group 103 kilometres (63.8 miles) from the start and moved out to a 3.37 minute lead by the point of 20 kilometres (12.4 miles) from the end to cross the finish line together. Martinez in a strong final sprint crossed first, followed by Gonzalo and with the main group of riders headed by Alfonso Gutierrez, Spain, 2:03 minutes behind the winner.

Bulls, without Jordan, lose to Boston

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boston Celtics opened a 21-point lead in the first quarter Wednesday night and went on to a 104-95 victory over the Chicago Bulls, who were missing National Basketball Association scoring leader Michael Jordan. Jordan, who had played 235 consecutive games, didn't make the trip to Boston after suffering a pulled groin in Chicago's 90-88 loss to Philadelphia Tuesday night. The Bulls threw a scare into Boston in the fourth quarter after the Celtics built their biggest lead, 95-63, with 10:51 remaining. With John Paxson scoring 14 points, Chicago outscored the Celtics 32-9 the rest of the way, but never cut the lead below nine points. The Celtics were led by Reggie Lewis with 22 points, and Robert Parish and Kevin McHale with 19 each. Scottie Pippen paced Chicago with 16 points.

Blood transfusions outlawed in U.K.

LONDON (R) — Blood transfusions which could enhance a horse's performance will be outlawed from March 23, British racing's ruling body has decided. "It is a disgusting process that the stewards have decided should not be allowed within the rules of racing," said Jockey Club spokesman David Pipe. "There have been persistent rumours, and public concern has been fuelled by that," he added. "There is still lingering doubt that this is going on even though our security department has never found any evidence." The move to outlaw the practice was taken at the Jockey Club's annual rules review. Security officers will now respond to claims of blood transfusions by visiting stables and searching for signs of the practice. Blood transfusions have previously been allowed as long as they did not involve the use of banned substances such as anti-coagulants.

Bittner takes slalom title

SHIGA KOGEN, Japan (AP) — Austrian Rudolf Nierlich Friday won the World Cup men's slalom to clinch his fourth triumph of the season. West German Armin Bittner took the slalom title. Nierlich, who has already won the Giant Slalom and two slaloms, came from behind to win the race on the 502-metre (1,657-foot) giant course with a vertical drop of 170 metres (561 feet). He was fourth with the time of 45.07 seconds, after he was clocked in at 47.25 in the second run for a one minute, 32.32 total.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Feelings and emotions are unsettled today, although the general business climate is favorable. Thinking before you speak or take action, is the best course to follow. Silence may be your best friend. **ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Talk over unimportant issues may get on your nerves. Be health-conscious and stay with activities that are good for you. **Taurus** (Apr. 20 to May 20) Investive ideas pay off. Use established procedures to introduce ideas. Keep quality in mind as well as quantity. **GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) You are at the top of the popularity list. Overly confident can cause you to make risky moves. Test the waters before you jump in. **MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't be a yes-person. Tell it like it is and take a straight approach. Use respect as an expression of approval. **LEO** (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Heed the advice of an expert. You are gaining financial independence. It is time to exchange phone numbers with that someone special. **VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Keep a low profile and avoid cranky cohorts. Put off the answer to an important question until you investigate further. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Add interesting innovations to work procedures and avoid boredom. A festive evening could spill over into the early morning hours. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) It is a bummer when you are in a job that you feel is insignificant or unworkable. Make an assessment and prepare for change. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Someone important may be giving you the royal treatment. Be sure to look your best. Now is the time to pursue romance. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Keep your eye open for a spicy, romantic partner. Avoid making comparisons. This could be the start of something great. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may feel that your sex life is sliding down hill. Try the roughest routine, instead of fast food. Be a better listener. **PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Avoid activities that put your safety at risk. You may feel that you can get away with more than you really can. **IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY** He or she will be bright and above average in mental and communicative abilities. Your son or daughter's power to invent, create and be versatile will be apparent right from the start. Your child may not take well to formal education. **THE STARS IMPEL** they do not compel. What you make of your life is largely up to you! © 1989, McNaught Synd.

THE Daily Crossword by Elizabeth Arthur

ACROSS

- 1 Bundle of moola
- 4 Clocked
- 9 Prayer words
- 14 Surore or Vigoda
- 15 Practically assured
- 16 Major—(retwards)
- 17 Beatles' film
- 20 TV's Kojak
- 21 Doll
- 22 Preface for short
- 23 "Green Ole"
- 25 Study hard
- 26 Emceed
- 28 Money player
- 30 Part of Earth
- 34 Uncle: Scot.
- 36 US playwright
- 37 Mountain climbing
- 38 Thomas film
- 41 Moldings
- 42 "— Evil"
- 43 Falshood
- 44 Mend
- 45 Loser to DDE
- 46 Maka beloved
- 48 Topers
- 50 TV's Kojak
- 51 Garment
- 52 Gold: Sp.
- 53 Sibley or pup
- 58 Anne Baxter
- 61 Telephone word
- 62 Great the day
- 63 Kind
- 64 Qar. port
- 65 Pick up an option
- 66 Poor grade

DOWN

- 1 Methods
- 2 Encourage
- 3 Farmer's spot
- 4 Also
- 5 Privately
- 6 Young girl
- 7 Old Ft. coins
- 8 Socialite for short
- 9 Turk. city
- 10 Perpetual
- 11 Holding of land
- 12 Arab prince
- 13 Taboo
- 14 Camp. pt.
- 15 Plunder
- 16 Artist Joan
- 17 Acmes
- 18 de Montha
- 19 King of Judea
- 20 The last
- 21 Passover feast
- 22 For — sake!
- 23 Fence steps
- 24 Asia Minor region
- 25 Vex
- 26 Foundations
- 27 Liabe
- 28 Wise
- 29 Limited
- 30 Aleutian island
- 31 Be overland
- 32 Man-made fiber
- 33 50 Articles
- 34 Son of Noah
- 35 Kept
- 36 Best
- 37 Author
- 38 Ensign
- 39 Atr. river
- 40 Accept
- 41 Article
- 42 Cup handle
- 43 Moisture

Yesterday's Puzzle Solvnt:

1. HANA 2. HANA 3. HANA 4. HANA 5. HANA 6. HANA 7. HANA 8. HANA 9. HANA 10. HANA 11. HANA 12. HANA 13. HANA 14. HANA 15. HANA 16. HANA 17. HANA 18. HANA 19. HANA 20. HANA 21. HANA 22. HANA 23. HANA 24. HANA 25. HANA 26. HANA 27. HANA 28. HANA 29. HANA 30. HANA 31. HANA 32. HANA 33. HANA 34. HANA 35. HANA 36. HANA 37. HANA 38. HANA 39. HANA 40. HANA 41. HANA 42. HANA 43. HANA 44. HANA 45. HANA 46. HANA 47. HANA 48. HANA 49. HANA 50. HANA 51. HANA 52. HANA 53. HANA 54. HANA 55. HANA 56. HANA 57. HANA 58. HANA 59. HANA 60. HANA 61. HANA 62. HANA 63. HANA 64. HANA 65. HANA 66. HANA 67. HANA 68. HANA 69. HANA 70. HANA 71. HANA 72. HANA 73. HANA 74. HANA 75. HANA 76. HANA 77. HANA 78. HANA 79. HANA 80. HANA 81. HANA 82. HANA 83. HANA 84. HANA 85. HANA 86. HANA 87. HANA 88. HANA 89. HANA 90. HANA 91. HANA 92. HANA 93. HANA 94. HANA 95. HANA 96. HANA 97. HANA 98. HANA 99. HANA 100. HANA

Coach damns plea of ignorance

TORONTO (R) — Ben Johnson's coach stood up to a fresh barrage of questioning Thursday in the government inquiry on drug use in amateur sports, insisting his star sprinter knew for years he was using banned steroids.

"He was acutely aware of what he was taking," said Charlie Francis, coach of Johnson who had his Olympic 100-metres gold medal stripped after testing positive for steroids in Seoul.

For a second day, Johnson's lawyer, Edward Futerma, tried to get Francis to concede that Johnson was unaware of the substances he consumed for most of the decade were banned.

Futerma attempted Wednesday to portray the 27-year-old Johnson as not having the capacity to understand the ramifications of steroid use.

On Thursday, Futerma had Francis describe the series of injections Johnson began receiving

in the autumn of 1984. Francis earlier testified that Johnson began using steroids in 1981, taking dianabol and stanozolol in tablet form.

Besides the tablets, Francis said Johnson received injections of vitamin B-12 and the enzyme inosine, which promotes the body's production of human growth hormone.

The coach said beginning in the autumn of 1983, synthetic human growth hormone was added to the vitamin mixture Johnson received. The injections were milky white in colour and at that time did not include banned substances.

Beginning in the autumn of

1984, the banned steroid dianabol was introduced in injectable form and a year later the programme was switched to injections of furazabol. Francis said both injected steroids were also milky white.

In an apparent suggestion that Johnson would not be able to distinguish between the injections because they were similar in colour, Futerma asked if Francis told the sprinter the injectable steroids were banned.

"When you switched (to injectable steroids) did you say to Ben Johnson, 'we are now giving you something that is banned'?" Futerma asked.

"No, I didn't say, 'we are now giving you something that is banned'," Francis replied. "He (Johnson) had been on a banned drug since 1981. I told him he would be using an injectable (steroid) to replace the oral tablets."

At one point, inquiry commissioner justice Charles Dubin in-

terrupted to ask: "Every time there was a change in the drug programme, did you discuss with the athletes that change?"

"Yes, indeed. In the case of the change from dianabol to furazabol, I discussed the change in clearance time from 28 days to 21 days," answered Francis, referring to the amount of time it took for the steroids to clear an athlete's system.

Francis said Johnson received injections in Toronto from Dr. Mario (Jamie) Astaphan, but that he was also injected by fellow sprinters Angella Issajenko or Tony Sharpe.

"The injections were given in the upper quad of the gluteal (buttocks)," the coach said.

"Would it embarrass you if I asked you to stand up and show us where that is?" Futerma asked.

Dubin interrupted again: "I don't think that's necessary. We know where that is."

Baseball preview: daunting prospects

Salary arbitration sours relations

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — Commissioner Peter Ueberroth, who oversees professional baseball in the United States, said players and team owners should be able to settle salary negotiations because "there's enough money to go around for everyone."

Ueberroth, whose last day in office is March 31, is leaving the game with lots of profits and lots of potential problems. When Ueberroth took office in October 1984, 21 of the 26 major league teams were losing money. Twenty-two made money or broke even in 1987, the last year for which full figures are available.

The Ueberroth years, while marked by unprecedented profit, have also seen a growing antagonism between players and owners over how to share the growing revenues.

After a three-year lull in signing contracts with athletes not bound by any team and therefore free to demand big salaries, major league owners this winter signed several of the so-called "free agents" to lucrative contracts. Some owners are concerned they could start losing money again.

"It would take them a long time," the commissioner said Thursday. "But it could happen over a period of time. Hopefully they will develop... a system that is fair for everybody."

Ueberroth said salary arbitration — a potentially explosive issue in the negotiations — did not have to be dismantled.

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — March's top baseball prospects can sometimes be April's fools.

Every major league baseball training camp has a player or two that comes along each spring and looks like another Mickey Mantle for a few weeks. But when the season starts, they don't live up to those legendary expectations.

This season, Greg Biley, Gary Sheffield, Rob Ducey and Darren Reed are all of it dazzling starts. Can it last?

"This game is unpredictable," New York Yankees manager Dallas Green said. "What made Pete Rose such a great talent? He didn't have the greatest natural ability in the world. As a scout, general manager or manager you have to be able to spot other things."

The scrapbooks are filled with crumpling clippings of can't miss kids such as Al Ferrara, Roger Freed, Ted Cox and Costen Shockley.

Freed, in fact, had the distinction of being a top prospect in two different camps.

Freed tore up the international league for Rochester in the late 1960s and was considered Balti-

more's future first baseman when he arrived for spring training in 1970. But his career with the Orioles lasted only four games.

Ferrara was supposed to be the Dodgers' new Duke snider and Cox the next Ted Williams for Boston.

Sometimes it takes time to become a prospect.

Tony La Russa struggled in the minor leagues, a system of teams in smaller towns that prepare players for the major leagues, for almost a decade before getting a shot with the Chicago Cubs after an outstanding spring in 1973.

"I played in one game for the Cubs and that was as a pinch runner," La Russa, now the Oakland manager, said. "I started to get the idea I wasn't going to make it as a major leaguer."

Some prospects just make it into the trivia books. Howie Bedell broke up Don Drysdale's consecutive shutout innings streak and relief pitcher Tom House caught Hank Aaron's 715th homer in the Atlanta Braves.

Some prospects just win awards.

Each spring, the Yankees present their top spring rookie with the James P. Dawson award,

named in honour of a New York Times sportswriter.

Winners have included Mike Ferraro, Rusty Torres and George Zeber.

"A lot of guys end up hitting a stone wall," Green said. "They reach a point where they need a change."

Green saw something in a prospect that others obviously missed.

Pat Tabler was considered the Chicago Cubs' future second baseman after the 1981 season. But in October 1981, Green was named the Cubs general manager and made a change.

He traded shortstop Ivan De Jesus to Philadelphia for Larry Bowa and minor leaguer Ryne Sandberg. Two seasons later, Sandberg was named the National League's most valuable player.

Green has a former top prospect in his camp this season. Outfielder Stanley Jefferson was considered a top prospect in the New York Mets organisation. He was traded to San Diego before 1986 and hit only .144 season.

"For Stanley, every at-bat this spring is an opportunity," Green said. "I don't think he's a wash-out as a hitter."

Abbott, the one-handed pitcher..

PHOENIX (AP) — Jim Abbott, a one-handed college pitcher who was the California Angels no. 1 draft pick, knew all along that pitching against major league baseball players wouldn't be easy.

Abbott, facing a big-league lineup for the first time, struggled for two innings Tuesday but wound up the winning pitcher as the California Angels beat Oakland 9-4.

"There were a few butterflies out there," Abbott admitted. "I got caught up in who was out there, rather than what I could do."

Abbott, who was born with-

out a right hand, thrilled himself and the crowd by striking out Oakland's star hitter, Jose Canseco, with a hard slider. But Abbott walked three batters and was slow fielding a potential double-play grounder, allowing a run to score.

He gave up one run and one hit — a single by Carney Lansford — and struck out two. Abbott was supposed to work three innings, but came out early because he had thrown 57 pitches.

Abbott was the eighth pick overall in last June's draft. Never before has a player with a minor league contract attracted so much attention in the exhibition season.

In his spring debut Friday, Abbott pitched three scoreless innings against San Diego in a "B" game against mostly minor leaguers. Against Oakland, the only big-league hitter missing from the lineup was Mark McGwire.

Abbott, who balances his glove on his right arm and switches it to his left hand so smoothly that it is hardly perceptible, had trouble. He was slow taking off his glove and getting the ball back into his left hand, and his relay to second baseman Mark McLemore was in time for a force-out, but late for a double play as the batsman scored.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Stanley likes classical music. His favorite is The Chipmunks doing 'The 1812 Overture.'"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LEBLE

ROHTT

CAULNY

TUFTOW

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: COUPE GRIPE THROAT POLICE

Answer: What a successful pickpocket always tries to get next to — THE "RIGHT" PEOPLE

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Revolt anniversary passes quietly in Tibet

Police tighten grip on Lhasa situation

PEKING (Agencies) — Police arrested Tibetans on the streets of Lhasa Friday but witnesses said the city was otherwise quiet on the 30th anniversary of a failed rebellion against Chinese rule.

Foreigners and residents contacted by telephone said troops and police were patrolling in force to stop Tibetans marking the day with pro-independence demonstrations similar to protests earlier this week in which a number of people were killed.

Foreigners confined to their hotels in Lhasa, the regional capital of Tibet which has been under martial law since Tuesday night, saw police arresting people in the street but could not give accurate numbers.

"Many people were arrested," one said.

The Chinese authorities sent thousands of troops to restore order after three days of the worst anti-Chinese protests since the 1959 uprising.

"There are many troops. It's very tense. It's quiet, no shooting," one resident said.

"We do not accept telephone interviews," said a regional government official in response to questions.

Fifteen Tibetans and one policeman were killed in the protests, according to official accounts. Tibetans say many more died when police stormed the centre of Lhasa Sunday.

Buddhist Tibetan activists told

western reporters shortly before their expulsion from Lhasa along with foreign tourists Thursday that up to 1,000 people had been detained and mass arrests were expected, mostly at night.

"Sure there will be a demonstration on Friday," one defiant Tibetan activist said the day after martial law was declared.

But others recognised the futility of staging any kind of public protest and called on Tibetans to treat Friday as a day of mourning in memory of the thousands killed in March, 1959, when rebel leaders staged a revolt.

Dalai Lama appeals

Speaking from exile in northern India where he fled during the rebellion, Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama appealed Friday to world leaders to help end what he called Chinese repression in Tibet.

"I urge for your personal intervention for bringing an immediate end to the repressive measures against innocent Tibetans and lifting of martial law in Lhasa," he said.

In a message to 40 world leaders, including U.S. President

George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the Dalai Lama also urged Peking to begin talks on the future of the Himalayan region.

China last year invited the Dalai Lama to meet anywhere for consultations but the two sides failed to agree on an agenda and who would take part.

China says it has ruled Tibet since the 13th century, but the Dalai Lama and his followers dispute this. Communist troops first entered Tibet in 1950, and March 10, 1959, rebel leaders declared independence. No government recognises an independent Tibet.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters Thursday that no foreign government, organisation or individual had the right to "interfere" in Tibet which he said was an inseparable part of China. He condemned the activities of what he called the "Dalai clique" but did not attack the Dalai Lama directly.

Chinese state radio said Friday that some Tibetans who took part in the protests this week had surrendered to police.

"They also revealed the names of those who had taken part in the riots with them," it said. "Those who confess will be treated leniently."

China's official media continued to pour out reports on Tibet but made no mention of the anniversary.



SLIPPERY BEDFELLOWS — Animal keeper Balint Gyanyi of Budapest performs a short demonstration with his pet snakes last week shortly before beginning an unregistered world record attempt by spending 10 days inside a room with three pythons and three boa constrictors.

Moscow protests attaché expulsion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union has lodged a "resolute protest" over the expulsion of a military attaché allegedly involved in a spy operation aimed at learning how the U.S. government protects computer secrets.

Lieutenant Colonel Yuri Nikolayevich Pakhtusov, 35, was told to leave Thursday. A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigation had led to his arrest Wednesday night, just a day after the United States opened a high-level dialogue with the Soviet Union.

Pakhtusov was described by a U.S. source as a significant catch because he is a member of the Red Army's GRU intelligence arm.

But the Soviet embassy issued a statement saying the expulsion order "could be only qualified as a deliberate provocation against a Soviet diplomatic official."

Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov, in a regular news briefing Friday in Moscow, did not announce any retaliatory Soviet action, but termed the ordered expulsion a "gross provocation."

"I would like to say that in taking the decision to expel our diplomat, the United States assumes all the responsibility" for

possible repercussions, Gerasimov said.

It denied that Pakhtusov engaged in any wrongdoing and said the embassy has lodged a "resolute protest" with the state department.

In Vienna Tuesday, Secretary of State James A. Baker III met for the first time with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and announced plans for a visit to Moscow in May.

The FBI probe was set in motion in August, two months after Pakhtusov's arrival, when he approached an American employee of a company that deals in classified information.

The American, who was not identified, reported the contact to the FBI, which began monitoring contacts between the two.

There is growing evidence that the Soviets are placing high priority on gaining access to Western computers with sensitive military, nuclear and space research information stored inside them.

A week ago, West German authorities charged a computer hobbyist with espionage and said a total of eight people were suspected of selling sensitive computer data from the United States and allied countries to the Soviets from 1986 through last year.

Soviets accept Hague human rights rulings

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Soviet Union says it will accept the World Court's rulings in cases involving human rights treaties, reversing 40 years of suspicion and resistance to the court's authority.

U.S. State Department officials hailed the Soviet move as a major step and said they hoped the Soviets would join the United States in accepting the court's rulings in all but the most sensitive national security cases.

Just three years ago, the United States rejected the court's authority when Nicaragua brought a case charging Washington with trying to subvert the Sandinista government.

But Washington and Moscow have been holding talks in an effort to get an agreement with Britain, France and China to recognise the court's authority in most treaties.

The United Nations' legal office Wednesday released a letter from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar withdrawing Soviet reservations to human rights treaties.

Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union would recognise the binding jurisdiction of the court in these human rights treaties.

— The 1948 convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

— The 1979 convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

— The 1965 international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

— The 1952 convention on the political rights of women.

— The 1949 convention for the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others.

— The 1948 convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.

The Soviet Union had signed the treaties, but added the reservation that it did not accept the authority of the World Court in disputes.

A senior U.S. State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "The Soviet legal writers used to say in their literature that they don't agree in advance in going to the court, believing it was dominated by Western influences."

The World Court, formally known as the International Court of Justice at the Hague, is the main judicial body of the United Nations. It has no powers of enforcement.

COLUMN 800000

Britons put on red plastic noses

LONDON (AP) — Indulging their legendary national penchant for eccentricity, millions of Britons donned red plastic noses Friday for a day of many fundraising. The noses, more normally seen on the faces of circus clowns, cost 50 pence (\$0.86) and were on sale at shops around Britain connected to two charities. At a national store chain and in many pubs, red noses for vehicles are being sold through a chain of gas stations for £1 (\$1.72) each. Two-thirds of the cash raised through the sales will go to Third World projects run by the charity Oxfam and Princess Anne's Save the Children Fund. The rest is marked for programmes to help young people and the elderly. The Comic Relief Group organisers say they hope this second red nose day will top the £15.8 million (\$27 million) raised last year. Organisers said that by Thursday night more than 4.5 million red noses for people and more than two million large enough to decorate vehicles had been sold, with many more sales expected Friday. On Thursday, Health Secretary Kenneth Clarke and two government colleagues wearing red plastic noses posed for press photographers, while soldiers paraded with guns and red noses at the Yeomanry barracks in York in northern England.

Mickey drawing fetches \$110,000

NEW YORK (R) — A crude sketch of Mickey Mouse signed by Walt Disney sold for \$110,000 in a private sale handled by Christie's East here. Christie's said the drawing, inscribed "to Tai and Harry, best wishes from Mickey Mouse and Walt Disney," was bought in a private sale Monday by an anonymous cartoon collector. The drawing, measuring 50 centimetres by 41 centimetres, was taken from a guest book that had belonged to an unidentified Hollywood film director, Christie's said. "This is the only drawing of Mickey by Walt that we've sold," said Christie's Beth Goldberg. "We know only of a handful. When he drew he drew small. But this was very crude, big and sprawling. We think it's the largest of its kind. The Disney people said they were amazed." "He could barely draw it," said Goldberg. "He was not a talented artist and he made no bones about it. He was an organiser, a great one."

Lansbury gets Hollywood award

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Angela Lansbury, who recently agreed to stay for another year on the CBS television network's highest-rated show, "Murder, She Wrote," has been named woman of the year by the Hollywood Radio and Television Society. She will be honoured at the society's 29th international broadcasting awards presentation dinner. An estimated 1,500 advertising and broadcasting executives are expected at the March 22 dinner to name the best television and radio commercials of 1988. Lansbury won an Oscar nomination as best supporting actress in the film "Gaslight" in 1944. She won Tony awards for Broadway productions of "Mame," "Dear World," "Gypsy" and "Sweeney Todd."

Conductor directs 7 million kids

WASHINGTON (AP) — Band director William P. Foster thought he'd done it all, but that was before his baton led a chorus of seven million children from Tunisia to the Philippines. With help from a global television hookup, Foster conducted what promoters billed as "the world's largest concert" Thursday. Nattily dressed in a high-collared white uniform with gold buttons, he mounted the podium in the Kennedy Centre's grand foyer to conduct 400 local school children in a half-hour choral programme performed simultaneously by millions of other youngsters via television. Among them were the "Singing Bears" of Coral Park elementary school who sang along at a shopping mall in Florida, 100 children from 20 countries who attend an American school in Tunis, and other kids in West Germany, Guam and American Samoa. Although it was midday Thursday in Washington, it was nighttime when 170 singers and band members performed from schools in the Marshall Islands, 3,800 kilometres southwest of Hawaii. Nearly 600 pupils chimed in from an elementary school at the U.S. naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines. They all followed Foster's conducting cues on seven selections.

Researchers closer to common cold cure

BOSTON (R) — Scientists moved a step closer to finding a cure for the common cold with the discovery, reported Thursday, of the biological gateway that allows cold viruses to enter the body.

Two groups of researchers reported in the Scientific Journal Cell that they had identified a protein found on the surface of cells that acts as a receptor for rhinoviruses, the primary cause of nose and throat colds.

Although colds are a combination of many different symptoms caused by a host of different viruses, rhinoviruses cause about 30 per cent of those symptoms, making them by far

the most significant culprits. The rhinovirus invades the body and attaches itself to a protein called intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1), found on the lining of blood cells and other cells associated with the immune system.

ICAM-1 normally plays a role in causing inflammation to an infection as the body tries to rid itself of the foreign agent.

The initial rhinovirus invasion causes inflammation in the nose but quickly spreads as the virus uses the immune reaction to ensure its spread within the host, jumping from receptor to receptor.

"The rhinovirus is exploiting

the receptor, using it to invade and then replicate and kill the cells lining the nose and throat," said Michael Kamark, a member of the research team at Molecular Therapeutics Incorporated that made the discovery.

Molecular is the research arm of Miles Incorporated, a U.S. affiliate of Bayer AG of West Germany.

"This discovery is a breakthrough step toward finding a cure for the common cold," said George Scangos of the Miles Research Centre.

"Curing the common cold has been difficult because there

are more than 100 known types of rhinoviruses. More than 80 per cent of these 100-plus rhinoviruses bind to the ICAM-1 receptor we identified," he added.

"Knowledge of this receptor may lead to drugs which block the binding and infection of host cells," he said.

The discovery of the ICAM-1 receptor was also reported in cell by a research team at Harvard Medical School.

Rhinoviruses as a cause of colds were discovered several years ago, but scientists have been stymied in their efforts to develop a vaccine because there

are so many different types of rhinoviruses.

However, both sets of researchers said more than 80 per cent of these subtypes use the ICAM-1 protein as the gateway to the body.

Both teams proposed that a soluble version of ICAM-1, which does not bind to any cell, be introduced to intercept the rhinoviruses and stop their spread.

A similar approach is being tested to stop the spread of the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which uses the protein CD4 as a receptor.

Bush on the lookout for new defence chief

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bush, his fledgling administration tainted by a congressional rebuff unprecedented in U.S. history, began a fresh search Friday for someone to head the Pentagon.

The Senate rejection Thursday of John Tower, Bush's nominee for defence secretary, dealt him a sharp political defeat only seven weeks into his presidency.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Bush had not considered any candidates prior to the 53-47 vote, the first rejection of an incoming president's cabinet nominee.

The president would begin a review Friday, he added.

There was no official hint of whom he might have in mind but at least eight names have been mentioned as possible replacements for Tower, including National Security adviser Brent Scowcroft and Republican Senator William Cohen of Maine. The

Senate vote ended six days of debate focusing on 63-year-old Tower's drinking habits, his work for defence consultants and his attitude towards women.

The Senate itself stood accused of setting a double standard for itself and Tower and pandering to rumour and innuendo.

The bitter debate saw frequent violations of the Senate's traditions of courtesy and left bruised feelings on both sides.

Tower himself, who fought hard for the job he had long coveted — even declaring a public oath to abstain from alcohol if confirmed — said no public figure had ever been subjected to such an examination "nor had his human foibles bared to such intensive and demeaning public scrutiny."

He said he was returning to his "beloved Texas... at peace with myself." Bush said Tower had undergone a cruel ordeal.

For Senator Sam Nunn of



George Bush

Georgia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee that Tower headed for four years at the end of a 24-year Senate career, the battle was a bruising affair that saw him under unusual attack by Republicans.

He told the Senate there would be "no celebration, no backslapping" at the end of a difficult and unpleasant chapter.

Botha party fails to resolve crisis

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's ruling white National Party failed Thursday to resolve a deepening leadership crisis as ailing President P.W. Botha fought against pressure to hand over power to heir-apparent F.W. de Klerk.

De Klerk, party leader since Botha resigned two weeks after suffering a mild stroke Jan. 18, met the president for an hour Thursday and said in a statement that talks would continue.

"These talks were extensive and incisive," de Klerk said. He gave no further details of the meeting in Botha's Tuynhuis office after a full meeting of the 133-member National Party caucus.

A party source said Botha was told that more than 95 per cent of the caucus members wanted him to resign as soon as possible and hand power to de Klerk.

The source said Botha was stung by the bid to oust him, despite assurances that his leadership over the past 10 years was deeply valued. He refused to resign immediately and was given time to review his options.

State-run television said the meeting "was a very tough session," and said it left the National Party confused over the running

of the country.

Botha, 73, spurned calls for his retirement. He released the text of a letter he sent to acting President Chris Heunis in which he announced he will return to work ahead of schedule Wednesday next week, when Finance Minister Barend du Plessis is to present the national budget to parliament.

"I am of the opinion that I must be present... when the cabinet meeting takes place that immediately precedes the presentation of the budget," he said.

Botha said last Friday that he would return to work in the week after the Easter weekend and added in a later interview that he might seek a further five-year presidential term.

Party sources have said repeatedly that his re-election when his term expires in September was out of the question.

Botha's announcement that he will resume work March 15 came shortly after he flew from his south coast holiday home to Cape Town for a showdown with de Klerk.

Meanwhile a group of 35 political detainees held without trial have suspended a hunger strike after being assured they would be charged or released.

Archaeologists pick over rubbish bins

By Jeff Frank
Reuters

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Archaeologists, who once devoted their time to excavating royal tombs, are now as likely to be seen picking over a rubbish dump.

There has been a general shift in the western world to an interest in ordinary people instead of just the leaders, said Colin Wells, head of the classical studies department at Trinity University in San Antonio.

Wells has spent 10 years excavating in 1,500-year-old garbage dumps at Carthage in Tunisia.

He headed a Canadian dig at the site of the ancient city in which the aim was to learn about the life of the average Carthaginian during the last three centuries of Roman rule.

The archaeologists were particularly interested in how a middle class neighbourhood was affected by the building of the city wall around the year 425 A.D.

"When the wall was built, it left the street in a dead end. The residents turned the dead end into a garbage dump," Wells told Reuters.

Lamps, broken wine jars, oyster shells, perfume bottles, dice and animal bones were some of the items unearthed.

Together with architectural evidence, the finds present a glimpse of a city in decline, mirroring the fall of the Roman empire, Wells said.

"We were able to look at a comfortable middle class culture just as it was on the point of decline, and trace that decline."

At this time the Roman empire in the west was falling apart under the invasion of Goths.

The Carthage wall was built to protect the Romans from the vandals from northern Europe, who had crossed the straits of Gibraltar.

Garbage is particularly valuable to archaeologists because it is, in a sense, the naked truth, Wells said.

People throw away things they no longer need and do not worry about the impression they leave.

"They reveal more of themselves when they don't know anyone is looking," Wells said.

That contrasts with the more traditional fodder for archaeologists, such as items from tombs.

Those things "were deliberately buried and so they tell us what the people who put them there want us to know. This, in a sense, was the best they could do," Wells said.

Wells believes that archaeologists of the future will have an advantage over their current and past counterparts

because so much of today's refuse is plastic, which does not rot away.

"The original 'nonbiodegradable' container was pottery, which is why pottery is fundamental to today's archaeology. We find so much of it," he said.

"But plastic is the pottery of the future. That is what archaeologists in coming centuries will find in our garbage dumps."

Given the throw-away nature of industry societies, future scientists should have no trouble finding plenty of material for study, Wells said.

And what will they think of modern life, after rummaging through our garbage?

"That we were lavish, wasteful and — I would say at least for North American culture — that we were astonishingly open traders. There's trash from all over the world in our dumps," he said.